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70P WHERE SOLD

Delight as maternity units open up wards again

MIDWIFE-LED maternity units across Shropshire have re-opened their wards after being closed for six months.

The New Year re-opening has been welcomed by campaigners in Oswestry, Ludlow and Bridgnorth who are now urging mothers-to-be to have their babies in the units.

All three closed their beds after

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust said it did not have enough midwives to retain safe staffing on the consultant ward at the Princess Royal Hospital. Pre and post-natal outpatient services remained. Last month it also closed the midwife-led unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after fears over the fabric of the building.

This week's re-opening was welcomed by Oswestry Councillor Paul Milner, who has campaigned to retain local health services. "It is great news that they have re-opened again," Councillor Milner said.

"Once you lose a service in an area it is very, very difficult to get it back. "Oswestry is the second biggest town in Shropshire and women de-

serve to be able to have their babies in their own town."

Liz Grayston from Save Oswestry Maternity Unit said: "I look forward to hearing the news of the first safe delivery at the unit. We continue to fight and stand up for our local maternity units."

Next week consultation will get under way into the long-term future

of in-patient beds in the three market towns. Shropshire's Clinical Commission Group has published a draft consultation document that suggests that in future women should only be able to have their babies in Telford, Shrewsbury or at home.

The midwife-led units would remain open as maternity hubs but not have inpatient beds.

JUNCTION TO GET SAFETY UPGRADE

Report by Sue Austin

TRAFFIC lights and filter lanes are to be installed at an accident blackspot on Oswestry's bypass, road bosses have revealed.

The safety improvements will take place at the Maesbury Road junction.

The busy crossroads connects Oswestry's industrial estate with the A483. It also takes traffic from the town centre onto Maesbury Road and onto the villages of Knockin and Kinnerley.

Drivers have died following crashes at the junction in recent years and there have been scores of other accidents.

Councillor Davenport also revealed that further changes are to be made to the nearby Mile End roundabout.

The roundabout's layout was reconfigured three years ago at a cost of £4 million.

"Since it was rebuilt we have had a lot of complaints from drivers about the layout," he said. When the island was reconstructed it meant six months of roadworks for drivers as approach roads were widened and extra lanes added.

Four months after it re-opened the Highways Agency carried out what it called "tweaks" to the roundabout.

The Highways Agency said the changes were made after driver behaviour was analysed at the roundabout.

The timetable for both improvement projects has not yet been published.

● Change – See Page 2

Top officer adds support to Knife Angel project



Superintendent Joanne Bull with the Knife Angel at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry. Photo: Tim Thursfield.

A TOP police officer has added her force's message to Shropshire's Knife Angel, praising the project for taking weapons off the streets.

Superintendent Joanne Bull inscribed the words "Heddlu Gwent Police, fighting knife crime, saving lives" in both Welsh and English, onto a blade on the sculpture at the British Ironwork Centre, near Oswestry.

It was a return to her home town for Superintendent Bull, who grew up in the area and went to Oswestry School.

The officer was involved in a knife amnesty in Gwent in South Wales 12 months ago when amnesty bins supplied by the ironwork centre were placed at police stations in the region.

She said: "It was an absolute pleasure to come to Oswestry and see the angel. We supported the amnesty in Gwent and we have recently seen a downtown in violent crime with injury. Every knife surrendered is potentially a life saved."

"It is an incredible sculpture, an amazing

piece of art. When you gaze up at the statue and see how many knives have been used and what they represent – weapons taken off the streets all around the UK – it delivers a very powerful message.

"The impact of knife crime is not only on victims but on the families and on witnesses." Meanwhile, retrospective plans for the visitor attraction have been delayed because more detail is needed.

● Delay – See Page 5

PROTEST

Complaint made to council over fox hunt demonstration

A COUNCIL has received a complaint regarding the conduct of a councillor during a Boxing Day hunt protest.

A band of around 15 people congregated outside Welshpool Town Hall to protest against the traditional Tanatside Hunt that goes through the town every year. Around 40 horses were being ridden with a host of dogs alongside as the group members made their protest.

Other people turned out in support of the hunt with hundreds lining the streets.

Following the protest Welshpool Town Council received a complaint about the conduct of one of the councillors in the demonstration.

The nature of the complaint is unknown and Mayor Steve Kaye said it would be looked into.

He said: "A complaint has been made and what we have to do first is have a meeting on January 10 which is a clerk's committee meeting. We will then take it to the first full council meeting of the year and make a decision."

The debate over fox hunting has caused quite a stir in the town with hundreds of people taking to social media to give their views.

● Continues – See Page 8

TRAGEDY

Blaze in caravan leaves one dead

A MAN has died after a caravan fire on a farm near Oswestry.

It is believed that the man who died had been living in the caravan.

West Mercia Police confirmed that officers were called to Babbinswood Farm, near Whittington, at about 8.40am on Christmas Eve after the blaze broke out and it was feared that the occupant was trapped inside.

The death is not being treated as suspicious at this time and a file is being prepared for the coroner.

INSIDE

Shirley crowned a Health Hero



PAGE 20



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'Sea change' could see A5 improvements, claims MP

Report by Sue Austin

THERE has been a "sea change" in attitude towards a bid to dual the A5 around Oswestry.

That is the verdict of MP Owen Paterson, who said there is now a "real will" to get the project under way.

The North Shropshire MP also hailed the support for plans to dual the 18-mile-length of the A5, from the northern end of the Shrewsbury bypass, through the county to the Welsh border.

It has also been revealed that a business case to upgrade the road is being drawn up by Shropshire Council to present to the transport minister.

More than 5,000 people have now signed a Shropshire Star petition calling for the road to be upgraded.

Mr Paterson said: "We don't have a plan drawn up yet and we do not have a route.

"But what we do have is a sea change in the way that the A5 is viewed.

"In the past it has seemed that the Highways Agency has simply paid lip service to calls for a dual carriageway. Now there is a real will to make improvements and to get this moving."

Mr Paterson described Welsh Government interest in the plans as a big boost for the campaign.

He said: "We also have, for the first time, a real will from the Welsh Government to get involved.

"Improvements to the A5 are vital for transport links in and out of north Wales.

"I will be holding more talks with the Welsh highways minister, Ken Skates in the new year. He is backing the move to get the road included in the Roads Improvement Strategy.

"It is critical that we get a bid in for the A5 to feature in the Roads Investment Strategy 2. Once we get our bid accepted we can go for a phased building. We have to have this road."

A potential boost for business will be one of the features of the bid but another significant issue is safety on the road.

Since 1991, there have been more than 1,785 casualties on the A5 north of Shrewsbury up to Chirk.

Toys take to the skies in church's zipwire fun



Ellie, left, and Emily Walsh collect their toys after their zip wire flight at St Oswald's Church in Oswestry

DAREDEVIL toys zipped through the air watched by their excited owners in a Boxing Day event with a difference.

The bellringers of St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, organised the teddy zip-wire challenge to encourage families to get out into the fresh air and to raise funds for the bell tower.

The owners of the toys climbed the 100 plus steps up the tower onto its roof for a magnificent view of the Shropshire plain to the east and the Welsh hills to the west.

They then went back down the steps and out into the churchyard to watch their toy be strapped into a special harness and zoom down to earth.

Ellie Walsh, seven, and her five-year-old sister, Emily, went to the church with parents, Darall and Sam and their teddies.

Sam said: "We came last year and the girls remembered it and wanted to come back today.

"It is great to be able to get out and do something that doesn't cost a fortune. The

views from the top of the tower are brilliant and it was the perfect weather."

Tower captain Brian Rothera said proceeds from the day would go towards the maintenance of the church bells and also for a project to create a bell ringing teaching centre. "We would like to be able to teach people not only from St Oswald's but other churches," he said. "We ring here at St Oswald's on Sundays and Thursday evenings and we are always looking for new bellringers, old or young."

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Power line should be quashed, insists MP

FEARS that a massive 400Kv power line from Mid Wales to Shropshire could be resurrected have been voiced by a local MP.

Glyn Davies, who represents Montgomeryshire, said National Grid has suspended a "Sword of Damocles" over the heads of the people of his constituency for too long.

He is writing to the chairman of the power company asking him to stop the uncertainty and call an end to any proposal for a new power line.

The previous proposal would have seen large metal pylons built across the countryside to connect a wind farm at Cefn Coch near Welshpool to the National Grid near Ellesmere.

But with some of the windfarm plans rejected by both Powys County Council and the UK Government it is now thought that power from wind farms that were granted permission can be transported via ordinary poles.

Mr Davies said: "While we can be grateful that the massive 400Kv power line from North Shropshire to Cefn Coch has not gone ahead, it has not been cancelled.

"For several years now, National Grid has suspended a Sword of Damocles over the heads of the people of Montgomeryshire. It could rise up like the plague from the ashes. It's gone time it was cancelled. I am writing to chairman, Sir Peter Gershon to ask him to do just that."

Motorist set to appear in court

A MAN will appear before court after being charged with drink-driving following a crash.

Police received a report of a single vehicle road traffic crash at the A483 roundabout at Sarn y Bryncael at Welshpool on Wednesday last week.

A red Mazda had left the road and was stuck down an embankment and no injuries were reported.

Driver headbutted man over road rage incident

Report by Jordan Reynolds

A 22-year-old headbutted another driver after following him home in an incident sparked by road rage.

Jack Jones, of Avondale, Chirk, was driving in Weston Rhyn near Oswestry in April when another driver flashed his lights at him after a near miss, Shrewsbury Crown Court was told.

Jones then turned his car around and followed the victim for a mile and a quarter to his home address.

An argument started on the drive, and it was claimed that the victim swore at Jones, which resulted in Jones headbutting the victim while his partner and the victim's wife watched on from their cars.

Andrew Baker, prosecutor, said: "The defendant headbutted him on the face and took hold of him. He was shouting and swearing at him as he did so.

"The defendant's partner was shouting at him to stop and leave. The incident was witnessed by the victim's wife.

"There was some marking around the victim's face, to the nose and lips and the crown of a tooth was broken off.

"It cost at least £1,000 to fix the tooth and he had problems blowing his nose for the next two months."

Jones pleaded guilty to one count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Gareth Roberts, for the defendant, said that Jones was not the type of man "who goes around looking for fights".

He said: "He's a man of good character. He did follow this man and he's not proud of it.

"He's remorseful and profoundly ashamed of himself and his actions.

"He's not the type of young man who goes around looking for fights.

"It was a single headbutt rather than a sustained attack."

Jones was given an 18-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, was ordered to pay £1,500 in compensation and will have to complete 20 days of rehabilitation activities, and 120 hours of unpaid work.

Sky's the limit for Lindstrand inflatable



Oswestry-based Lindstrand Technologies made the world's largest inflatable building

IT was tested on a farmer's field near Oswestry - and now the world's largest inflatable building is standing tall in California.

The hangar is designed to house a giant airship at Goodyear's headquarters in America.

The firm turned to Oswestry-based Lindstrand Technologies to create it.

The firm is run by Per Lindstrand, the world famous aeronautical engineer, pilot, adventurer and entre-

preneur. He is particularly known for his series of record-breaking trans-oceanic hot air balloon flights with Virgin boss Richard Branson.

Executives from Goodyear flew to Britain for the first look at the building back in the summer, when it was tested in fields just outside the town.

The hangar was constructed from 73 miles of polyester at the Lindstrand Technologies factory in Oswestry - and is no small matter of 107 metres long, 32 metres wide

and 25 metres high. Now it is standing nine storeys tall on land along Interstate 405 south of Los Angeles in suburban Carson. It will house Wingfoot Two, which flies over college football games in Los Angeles.

Mr Lindstrand has widened the work at his Oswestry factory to include inflatable structures.

He said of the hangar: "If we laid the material out, it would stretch from Oswestry to Chester and back."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police probe on car break-ins

POLICE are investigating a spate of car break-ins in Oswestry.

Most of the break-ins happened sometime on Christmas Eve.

Two cars were targeted in Border Close on December 24 with £10 in coins taken from one.

Nothing was stolen in the second break-in.

Other cars were searched at Woodlands Close and in Chestnut Avenue.

In the latter, CCTV captured a small white van or car drive past the property just after 1.15am.

People should contact West Mercia Police on 101 with any information about the incidents.

Scuffle reported on Christmas Day

POLICE were called to a scuffle outside a pub on Christmas Day.

West Mercia Police received reports of disorder on the car park of the Highwayman Pub on Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, at around 2.45pm, the force said.

The incident was stopped and no arrests were made, with no one sustaining injuries.

An appeal has now been launched for witnesses to the scuffle.

Specialist college is up for awards

A SPECIALIST college has been shortlisted in the TES Further Education Awards.

Derwen College, based in Gobowen near Oswestry, has been named as a finalist in two categories of the awards.

The college has been nominated for the Specialist Provider of the Year and Employer Engagement awards in the annual celebration of excellence across the further education sector.

Winners will be announced on February 23 at a ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

Meryl Green, college principal, said: "We are absolutely delighted with these nominations which are a reflection of the hard work and commitment of the entire team here at the college."

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Miles is now recovering

Dog hit on A5 road found after search

A DOG that was badly injured when it was hit by a police car on the A5 on Christmas Eve has been found after a five-day search.

The whippet cross saluki dog was found hiding at the Mile End Service Station, near Oswestry, on Thursday last week. Oswestry

police officers and animal-lovers gave up their Christmas and Boxing Days to join the search party, which was co-ordinated by Hector's Greyhound Rescue.

Miles, as he has been christened by rescue volunteers, is now recovering at Border Vets in Oswestry

but will need surgery to repair his back legs.

Hayley Bradley, who runs the Gobowen-based rescue group, said the dog was hit on the A5 by police on an emergency call shortly before 10pm on December 24.

"After being hit he went to

ground and we just couldn't find him," she said.

"We shared it on Facebook and people from all over were giving up their time to search. It's been absolutely amazing to see the community come together. The police came out and were wonderful."

New Year honours given to those who help and inspire

Report by Mark Andrews

THE work of people who have served others in Shropshire and Mid Wales was recognised in the New Year's honours list, with accolades for voluntary work and public service.

Arwyn Watkins, of Welshpool, was created an OBE for services to education and training in Wales.

He said: "It's a huge honour and I would like to think that it recognises the important contribution that the independent training sector makes to the daily lives of people living and working in Wales."

Council must review care plan

A LOCAL authority has been ordered to re-submit a report highlighting changes that needed to be made in its failing children's services.

Following the publication of a scathing Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales report into Powys County Council, an improvement plan was submitted to the inspectors in November. The CSSIW has now identified further areas for improvement.

Council Leader Rosemarie Harris said: "We are taking on board the CSSIW suggestions and will work with colleagues across the service, the council and partners to develop these additional actions to keep children safe and improve services."

"The council is totally committed to safeguarding children in our county, and I will be leading the council's response as a top priority."

"It is also recognition for Cambrian Training Company, which I joined nearly 20 years ago and my family. I couldn't do the range of work that I do without their full support."

Receiving BEMs are Elvet Richards, of Marton, for services to the community of Trelystan in Powys, and Elizabeth Lawrence of Oswestry for services to the community of Morton.

Elizabeth Lawrence, of Sweeney Mountain, took up carriage driving in the early 1990s and became involved in Riding for the Disabled carriage driving in 1998, following a long military career.

She is a trustee of the Perry Riding and Driving group in Baschurch and a regional representative of the driving section of the national charity.

She is also senior churchwarden at Morton Church, close to her home.

Colin Case is to receive a British Empire Medal.

The community stalwart was given the honour for voluntary and charitable services to the community in Ruyton XI Towns near Oswestry.

Success for Santa collection



Staff and customers at the Morrisons supermarket in Oswestry say hello to Santa ORGANISERS of Oswestry's Santa street collections say the initiative raised about £3,000 for good causes.

The initiative was organised by Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club.

Mike Lade from the club said: "It has been a hard struggle getting sufficient collectors and they were badly hit by the ice and snow for three of our collection nights."

"The final collection figure is not yet in

but is expected to be approaching £3,000 to be distributed around local and other rotary supported charities.

"Special thanks are due to Morrisons, Stans Superstore and B&M for providing the hospitality for Santa and space for the important static collections."

"More importantly, thank you to the wonderful generosity of the community in these very difficult times."

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Visitor attraction's bid to expand is hit by delay

Report by Jonny Drury

A REPORT into a retrospective planning application at a major tourist attraction has been delayed because more detail is needed.

The British Ironwork Centre, on the A5 near Oswestry, submitted a retrospective planning application to Shropshire Council after it was revealed it had not sought permission for its site.

The application now comprises a cafe, warehouse, outdoor activities, visitor parking, new buildings, an outdoor theatre, a mini railway and a crazy golf course.

Family's joy as £8k debt is paid off

YOU see them on films and in fairytales – but Christmas miracles rarely come along in real life.

But for one family that dream became a reality thanks to insolvency firm Hanover, which ran a competition through Key 103 Radio to pay off a family's debt.

Natalie Philbin-Carr, who lives in Llan-gadfan, near Welshpool, entered the competition after she had racked up £8,500 on credit cards.

She received a phone call telling her she was the lucky winner and all her debts would be paid off immediately. Miss Philbin-Carr, who recently moved home, described the news as a "Christmas miracle".

The mother of two, who lives with her partner, said: "It is fantastic. I was gobsmacked when I had the phone call, it is a Christmas miracle. There are so many competitions on Facebook so I enter quite a few and you just forget about them, so to have the call was amazing, I couldn't believe it. Straight away they agreed to pay the debts and everything is nearly sorted."

"In the run-up to Christmas I stick a lot of things on the cards, which I don't usually do, but with moving house and everything it has been tough and I've been on 12 months maternity leave."

Shropshire Council instructed ESP Ltd to carry out a report into the impact of the scheme in November.

However ESP says the application contains insufficient detail to carry out a proper review.

The report says: "From our review of the proposed plans and reports to date, we consider that this information is both lacking in detail and confusing."

"There is no existing site plan or drawing indicating the field pattern before the development, subject of the retrospective application, was constructed. There is no overall proposed landscape plan that can be read to scale and in context of the surrounding landscape."

"There are inconsistencies between the various plans and the landscape management plan, and the information lacks sufficient detail regarding the fabric, structure and layout of the proposed development."

"The incoherent proposals make it very difficult for us to assess the landscape and visual issues in any detail."

A recommendation from ESP has outlined the work the centre needs to carry out before a proper report can be prepared.

Centre chairman Clive Knowles said: "We will obviously be addressing the matters that have been brought up."

"We are meeting with the council in the New Year to try to resolve any issues in the report and any other matters. We are happy to iron out any problems."

"Support for the application is coming in in droves."

"We have unprecedented support with only half a dozen objections compared to hundreds of messages of support."

"We are very optimistic about the future."

Moth snap sets judges aflutter



Mairi Eyres with TV presenter Chris Packham and her photo of a hummingbird hawk-moth
A STRIKING image of a hummingbird hawk-moth caught the judges' eyes at the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2017.

Youngsters aged 19 and under were invited to capture the animal kingdom on camera or mobile device for this year's competition.

Oswestry teenager Mairi Eyres's photo of a hummingbird hawk-moth, entitled 'Feast of colour', was awarded runner-up prize in the 16 to 18 age group category.

Eighteen year-old Mairi took the image of the moth while revising for her exams.

She said: "The table I sit at for revising overlooks a patio with lots of flowers around the edge."

"When I saw it I literally dropped my revision and raced out with my camera."

"The morning light was just hitting the lawn behind making a beautiful bright backdrop to frame the hummingbird hawk-moth against."

Mairi was also awarded the runner-up prize in the portfolio category for her series of stark, monochrome images of natural and man-made structures with bold linear shapes running through them.

Attracting entries from under 19s across England and Wales, the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2017 were judged by a panel of experts in wildlife photography led by Springwatch presenter Chris Packham.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

2017 certainly didn't disappear quietly in Welshpool. A Boxing Day hunt protest produced a social media storm which rattled on for days and saw fingers being pointed at two town councillors.

The traditional parade of the Tanatside Hunt attracts huge crowds to Welshpool.

This year for the first time the tradition saw a protest from around 15 anti-hog hunting demonstrators, including the two councillors.

Debate

Hundreds took to Facebook pages to vent their feelings in a "for or against" debate.

The debate became too personal for comfort.

It saw the police being contacted over allegations of threats and abuse.

And demands were made on Welshpool Town Council to investigate the conduct of two members.

It's an interesting debate. And it is yet another reminder to people that publishing their views on social media leaves them exposed to the same libel laws which govern newspapers and any other online publication.

Allegations

It also opens up the timeless debate about when a councillor is not appearing in public as a councillor and whether that is really possible, on even an issue at all.

After all councillors are elected because of their strong opinions.

So should they be allowed to take part in peaceful demonstrations?

It's whether their actions have brought themselves or the council into disrepute, both on and offline, that the authorities will be forced to determine if official complaints are made.

What any elected councillor must appreciate though is that their actions in public will always come under scrutiny.

Repercussions

The repercussions must always be considered.

So any thoughts of running naked down Broad Street to welcome in the new year should be shelved now.

With that image in mind may I take this opportunity to wish all Chronicle readers a happy and prosperous 2018.

None of us know what the year ahead will bring but we do know that The Chronicle will again be dropping through your letter boxes with all the local news you need.



A scene from the the BBC soap Eldorado



Murcia where Mrs Middleton Darby emigrated to



Penelope Middleton Darby enjoys her new life

Is the expat dream at an end as Brexit looms?

Will Brexit mean life is to change again for the British living abroad?
MARK ANDREWS reports

THE now infamous television series *Eldorado* portrayed the life of the British expat in Spain as a somewhat glamorous affair.

Wealthy, handsome men with pin-up wives sipping cocktails by the pool as they basked in never-ending, all-year round sunshine.

For Penelope Middleton Darby, though, the reality now looks somewhat different. The former Shropshire office worker, who emigrated to a village just outside the Spanish city of Murcia in 2011, is now anxiously waiting to find how she and her husband Simon will be affected by Britain's decision to leave the EU.

The precise number of Britons living in Spain is a matter for some debate. In 2014, the official number of registered British migrants in the country was just over 300,000, but it is widely acknowledged that this is only the tip of the iceberg. The left-leaning Institute of Public Policy Research has estimated that the number might be as high as 760,000.

Mrs Middleton Darby, who raised her family in Ellesmere, and whose brother Dr Paul Middleton worked until recently as a GP in Oswestry, is not expecting to be expelled from the country. But she says the economic situation could force her and her husband to return to Britain.

"We have been resident in Spain for over five years, so we expect to be allowed to stay but, of course, if the UK leaves



Penelope Middleton Darby and her husband Simon

with no deal not even that is guaranteed," she says. Mrs Middleton Darby, who is 66, and her 71-year-old husband, are typical of many of the Britons who retired to Spain for the warmer weather and quieter lifestyle.

"There were many reasons for leaving, a prime one being health," says Mrs Middleton Darby, who worked for accountancy firm Morris Cook & Co.

"We both have arthritis in our families and a drier, warmer climate gives us a much healthier life.

"We also have a much better quality of life, our pensions are not generous and, although we find ourselves struggling a little as sterling has fallen so much, we are still better off in Spain. It's a quieter life, less stress, noise and bustle, all of which suits us. We find the

health service in Spain excellent too."

But she fears that unless the UK Government can secure a favourable deal with the Spanish authorities, the dream could rapidly turn into a nightmare, and she and her husband could be forced to return to the UK.

She is a member of the recently formed Breain in Spain pressure group, which is campaigning for British expats now living in Spain.

"Our main concern is continuing healthcare," says Mrs Middleton Darby. "Without UK continuing to pay Spain for our healthcare we will, along with many other pensioners, will be forced to return to UK."

She also has concerns about the impact the fall in sterling has had on the value of their pensions. She says even

if British pensions are subject to annual rises, it is unlikely to compensate for the weak pound.

"Our UK pension has shrunk over 25 per cent," she says. "Unless the UK manages the economy better, sterling become worthless and our living standard in Europe falls. If it falls much further we will not be able to afford to stay."

Mrs Middleton Darby says it is a worrying time for many expats who moved to mainland Europe, as well as for citizens of other EU countries who moved to the UK. She is critical of the UK Government's handling of the negotiations, saying it should have guaranteed the rights of existing EU immigrants at the outset.

"The whole situation has caused a lot of upset, worry and stress," she says.

"We pensioners did not deserve this, just as EU citizens in the UK don't either, it's disgraceful. There is no excuse for the UK not guaranteeing citizens' rights from the start and the payment for healthcare is solely to be agreed by the UK Government. Citizens' rights should have been agreed quickly and ring-fenced."

The Breain in Spain group is unashamedly in favour of Britain remaining in the EU, despite last year's referendum result, and is now calling for the EU to offer European passports to British expats once the UK has left the EU.

These arguments will struggle to find much support in Shropshire, a county which voted overwhelmingly to leave the European Union. In the Shropshire Council area, 57 per cent voted to leave the EU, with the figure rising to 63 per cent in Telford & Wrekin, and Mrs Middleton Darby's old North Shropshire constituency this year returned arch Eurosceptic Owen Paterson to Parliament with a massive 16,000 majority.

WORKING FOR YOU



In this era of social media and rolling news, it can be difficult to find time to reflect, but the comparative stillness of the year's end provides a welcome break. It allows us time to see things in perspective and be thankful for that which we often take for granted. It is, for example, nothing short of remarkable how artificial light has been transformed from a precious commodity into something available to all of us, all the time. Our prehistoric ancestors would have to gather and chop wood for 60 hours to produce the equivalent in terms of energy output of a modern light bulb shining for 54 minutes. Even when candles became available, they were prohibitively expensive for all but a few.

By the 18th century, candles became more widely available, but remained unaffordable to most. George Washington, for instance, estimated that his five hours of nightly reading cost him the equivalent of more than \$1,000 at today's prices.

The invention of the light bulb changed things decisively. By the beginning of the 20th century, the 60 hours of work which gave our ancestors an hour of light could provide closer to 10 days. By 1920, 60 hours of work could pay for five months of stable light. By 1990, that figure was 10 years and today it is 52 years.

Overall, the cost of light has fallen by a factor of half a million, and its quality transformed from dirty, risky and dim to bright, clean and stable. That progress is still continuing, as safe, efficient LED bulbs become cheaper and cheaper.

That extraordinary transformation has been mirrored in farming. Many of us will remember the traumatic news bulletins of the 20th century with images of starving people on the Indian subcontinent. But through pioneering genetic technology in wheat in the 1960s, the Nobel peace laureate Norman Borlaug saved a billion lives from starvation and now India is a net food exporter. Indian wheat production may exceed 100 million tonnes this year, from a mere 12 million before Borlaug's revolution.

At a time when news is often filled with doom and gloom, these two simple examples remind us that we are massively better off than any previous generation. Humans are profoundly capable of great things and, with that in mind, we can look forward optimistically to the new year, sure that things will continue to get better.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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IF I GO TO PRISON WILL MY CHILDREN BE ABLE TO VISIT ME?

Q: I am due in court next month and the way things are looking I am worried that I may end up going to prison. As I've never been in a prison before I don't know what to expect. I'm especially worried about the effects it will have on my children. Will they be able to visit me in prison? And if they can visit me will they have to go through things like being searched? What will happen if they get upset or bored, will it mean my partner will have to cut short the visit?

A: You don't need to worry about losing contact with your children as they will be able to visit you. The only time they would not be allowed to visit is if you are deemed to present a potential risk to them.

When they visit they will have to stay with the adult that brings them at all times and they must be kept under control. Babies and young children do not normally need to be named on the Visiting Order, nor do they need independent identification, but you should get this confirmed by the individual prison. Pushchairs and carry cots are normally not allowed inside the prison.

All visitors, even babies, are subject to search. Children and female visitors will usually receive just a 'rub down' by a female prison officer. If one of your children is a baby, most prisons will allow you to hold him or her. It would be advisable for there to be two visiting adults if the children are very young, so that one of them can take the children out of the Visit Room if they become bored or fractious.

Further information relating to this question is available from Emma Simoes, a Partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



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A struggle to maintain communities Stand by for stormy waters as the reality of Brexit hits us

RURAL Shropshire has struggled against the odds to maintain its small market towns and villages.

South west Shropshire in particular has a plethora of scattered villages and hamlets who have worked hard to keep pubs, shops and village schools alive. Government policy and local planning policy supported housing being built which was both affordable to buy and to rent. Traditionally smaller housing was built, semi-detached two or

three bed properties, terraces too. How often do we see that now? Most rural areas have seen housing snapped up by older people moving into the countryside to retire.

Some buy building plots and build large four bed properties which will never be in the price range of the young people who were born in our villages and frequently still live with parents in them.

What is this resulting in? Villages which are progressively ageing and will have more

and more people needing 'care' in the future, a lack of younger people to deliver many of the services we need, teachers, nurses, carers and shop worker - to name but a few travelling into rural areas to provide the needs of rural communities. This costs the health service and Shropshire Council large amounts of cash!

CLLR HEATHER KIDD
Liberal Democrat Councillor
for Chirbury and Worthen

Tidy-up of fire-hit church starts after arson attack



Mr Albert Pearse and the vicar, the Rev John Allen, pictured on March 16, 1980, during clearing up at the fire-damaged Go-bowen Church. All Saints Church was almost completely destroyed in the blaze the previous December. A teenage soldier was jailed for three years for arson.

People need to take responsibility for their actions

SHORT of re-diverting the River Severn away from Shrewsbury, I'm afraid all the safety measures in the world won't stop the minority who put their lives at risk while engaging in activities contrary to common sense.

Let me give you an example: Many years ago I thought it was a jolly wheeze to cycle, while the river was in flood, along the tow-path from Castlefields, in the dark whilst completely plastered. By the time I reached the English Bridge the water was halfway up my crossbar. It was about then I realised that perhaps this wasn't the wisest thing I'd ever done.

My point is this: you can't protect against this type of behaviour. Therefore why should the sensible majority be penalised by the actions of the few, of which I am a fully paid up member? I was extremely lucky. I wouldn't have expected fences erected after my demise just because I behaved like a fool. People must be accountable for their actions.

W I HUXLEY
Reabrook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Spend cash where it is most needed

WHEN are the powers that be going to put the health and welfare of the citizens of this country, before huge projects, costing billions, benefitting a few?

Wake up, open your eyes and ears, and have a real look at what is needed for all your citizens, for life and leave the frills aside. Yes, we need transport, transport for all, but more we need all to have at the very least, a quality of life that you and your families, would pray for, if your world crashed around your ears.

B A FLOWERS
Newport

A short sharp shock could help sort out the jobs

SPARE the rod and spoil the child is an ancient proverb.

But it's still true.

Every day the local papers carry stories of vandals wrecking toilets, play equipment etc.

They take a delight in it. So at great public expense we install CCTV cameras.

The CCTV cameras may discourage some of them.

So we catch them and what do they get? A smack on the wrist and go away laughing.

Younger generations won't know what we are talking about, but many older folk may agree with me that they should have the birch rod.

Crime usually starts with youngsters getting away with it. Some eventually end up in jail.

We need zero tolerance and sharp short shock treatment.

Perhaps we could trial it in certain areas.

RON JONES
St Martins

CHATting with friends, I was amazed to hear how little they knew of the effect Brexit would have, and in the case of exchange rates, what the effect already is.

Mr A buys a lovely German car in 2015 when the pound was at its strongest against the Euro at 1.45 and it cost £22,241.

In 2017 he buys that same car and the exchange rate has crashed to 1.12 but this applies only to what the dealer paid to import it.

His profit or mark-up is unaffected and he charges the same amount; let's say £5,000. Cost is now £27,321

So we crash out of Europe and there is a 15 per cent tariff applied to its cost to the dealer.

The cost is still at 1.12 euro to the pound but is now £30,670 a 38 per cent increase.

If the pound slides to parity in January, and many say it will, then the car costs £33,250, an increase of 49.5 per cent.

If the pound slid that far then interest rates would have to increase to draw funds into the country to stabilise the exchange rate.

You might find your payment plan (and your mortgage) has increased drastically on top of the revised exchange rate and tariff costs. By how much depends on the people issuing the plan. We have been misinformed by the government that the latest small interest rate was to prevent growth surging away. In fact growth is flat. They just do not want people blaming Brexit for what is happening.

So it's hard times ahead. If you still have a job! Those working in the car plant at Ellesmere Port and at Nissan in Sunderland probably will not as there a 90 per cent chance of closure. So higher prices and less choice for the rest of us.

ROBIN LLOYD
Ellesmere

Light up the bikes please

WHY are people too mean to buy lights for push bikes?

Many times in my car I am about to pull out of a road junction and all of a sudden a bike will appear - no lights, person dressed in dark clothing, headphones on.

A near miss . . . If I had hit them, whose fault would it be?

If I drove my car with no lights on how far would I get?

Cyclists have been doing this for years. Why?

Lights do not cost a lot, or reflective clothing.

It could cost you your life. You cannot blame the motorist.

G JONES
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Trial date is set over driving claim

A MAN who is charged with causing serious injury by dangerous driving will go on trial in July, a court has ruled.

Defendant Stewart Maurice Graves, of Dolanog, Meifod, appeared at Mold Crown Court over the driving allegation.

The 67-year-old denied a charge that on January 11 on the A470 Dolwen to Llandinam Road he caused serious injury to Philip Pryce, by driving a Range Rover dangerously.

A separate allegation that he had earlier driven dangerously during an incident 10 miles away on the same day was dismissed by Judge Rhys Rowlands following legal arguments in court.

The case has been listed for trial on July 4.

Council looks to raise tax by 3.99pc

SHROPSHIRE Council is expecting to increase council tax by 3.99 per cent, according to its chief finance officer.

James Walton, Shropshire Council's head of finance, said the authority is planning on continuing with the increases until 2020/21.

A final decision on the rise is not taken until February and Mr Walton said that the authority is still waiting for any communication from government outlining limits on the level of increases allowed.

Currently councils are only allowed to raise council tax by 1.99 per cent, per year, without calling a referendum on the increase. Authorities are also permitted to add another two per cent increase, to be spent entirely on adult social care funding.

Mr Walton said: "We have modelled a 3.99 per cent increase from 2016/17 to 2020/21."

Man avoids jail term over post boxes thefts

Report by David Banner

A THIEF stole dozens of metal post boxes worth thousands of pounds and sold them on eBay.

Mark Crowther admitted stealing or attempting to steal 37 post boxes worth more than £11,000, and using specialist equipment to do so.

The thefts left Royal Mail with a £26,000 bill including replacements.

However, Crowther, 37, of Linden Avenue, Chirk, escaped immediate custody because of the delay by Royal Mail in bringing the case against him.

The boxes were taken from Haughton in Shrewsbury, Sodylt in Ellesmere, Chequer Box in Long Waste, Whitchurch, Llwyn Road, Park Hall, Brongarth and the Old Racecourse in Oswestry.

He had first been "on the radar" back in 2014 as a suspect, Mold Crown Court heard.

Judge Niclas Parry said that over a period of two years he was effectively "carrying out an attack on the way of life in rural communities."

Crowther had previous convictions for 36 offences including two previous convictions for handling.

But he had pleaded guilty, his last conviction was in 2014, almost three years had passed since his offending and the delay in bringing him to court was not his fault.

Crowther received a 12 month prison sentence suspended for 16 months and was ordered to carry out the maximum 300 hours unpaid work in the community.

Defending barrister Brian Treadwell said that the offences dated back a long time.

Since that time Crowther had transformed his life, the court was told.

Boxing Day hunt tradition continues



Supporters and objectors turned out in Welshpool to watch the Tanatside Hunt get under way on Boxing Day. Photo: Owain Betts.

CROWDS turned out for a chance to watch the annual Boxing Day hunts get under way.

Hundreds stood out in the streets in various towns in Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Locals gathered in Welshpool to watch the annual parade of the Tanatside Hunt through the streets.

A small band of objectors jeered and held banners high as hunt members led a parade lap around the town in traditional fashion.

Those watching the spectacle included Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies.

He said the streets were packed with spectators.

He said: "It was the biggest crowd I've ever seen at the Boxing Day meet."

"Most, like me, have never been hunting in their lives, and never wanted to."

"I'm always amazed how friendly and orderly everyone is bearing in mind the antipathy that hunting with dogs seems to generate."

The North Shropshire Hunt leaving from Albrighton Hall near Shrewsbury, and the United Hunt in Bishop's Castle were also well attended.

More than 250 hunts met across the United Kingdom.

Homelessness programme saved from closure threat

COMMUNITY housing for vulnerable and homeless young people has been saved from the threat of closure.

New Century Court in Oswestry has been taken over by STAR Housing, which manages council housing in Shropshire.

Last year Bromford Housing Association announced it could no longer run the scheme.

The project offers housing to young people aged 16 to 25 in a supported environment.

Its aim is for young people to gain the skills and confidence to move on from the service and live happy, healthy lives in the future.

STAR Housing said it was delighted to have taken over an important young people's service in Oswestry in a move that prevented its closure.

Nigel Wilson, community support services officer, said: "We will provide a much needed service at New Century Court that offers safety, comfort and support for vulnerable and homeless young people from across the county. Working closely with Shropshire's Housing Options team and social services, we will ensure there is the support in place for young people who need housing to thrive and move on to independence. The support we provide is tailored to the needs of the individual young person including a dedicated support worker with whom they will meet regularly.

"We will provide community activities, workshops, presentations and more for the young people at New Century Court to benefit their development aiming to ensure that the young people go on to be involved in education, training, work or volunteering as part of their move into independence."

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New market could be in the open by spring time

A NEW open market that links a retail park and a town centre could get the go-ahead.

As part of the Welshpool town plan, a proposal has been launched to create a new full-time walk-through market from the Tesco retail park, which now includes Lidl and B & M Bargains, through the Church Street park and linking with the town centre.

The move would see traders who currently are housed in the town hall move to specially made cabins in the car park.

It would potentially bring in more traders, as the car park runs alongside the path that links to the town centre, and is used by hundreds of people every day who get into the town.

The project was discussed in a meeting between town and county councillors before Christmas, and it was backed by both parties as a project for the coming year.

Mayor Steve Kaye said: "This was a great opportunity to set out the town council plans so that the two authorities can work together to achieve them. It was a very constructive and purposeful meeting."

It is hoped, through the town plan, that the project could be in place and operational in the spring.

The plans were among a number discussed between town and community councillors at the recent meeting.

Powys County Council cabinet member Rachel Powell said: "I would like to thank Welshpool Town Council, Councillor Steve Kaye and local members, for their warm welcome and commend them for the organisation of our visit. It is very clear that they are all extremely motivated and proactive in developing their town to future benefit their communities."

Charity makes appeal to find more volunteers

Report by Jonny Drury

NATIONAL charity Contact the Elderly is appealing for volunteers in Oswestry to spare just a few hours each month to help with the running of local tea parties – and enjoy some tea and conversation for themselves.

These monthly volunteer-led tea parties help to combat the loneliness experienced by over 75s who live alone.

The concept is simple – older guests are collected from their homes by a volunteer driver, and taken to a volunteer host's home, where they join a small group for tea, chat and companionship.

Kath Davies, Contact the Elderly's development officer for the West Midlands, lives in Shrewsbury where she volunteers for two local tea party groups as a host and reserve driver.

She said: "The charity is looking to expand the number of groups in Shropshire and is appealing for volunteers' support to develop a new group in Oswestry."

"Anyone who can spare a couple of hours one Sunday a month and has a car is eligible to volunteer as a driver. Becoming a host involves just a couple of hours once or twice a year."

"It's not a big commitment, and our volunteers genuinely get as much out of the experience as our older guests."

To find out more about volunteering a few hours once a month as a driver, two afternoons a year as a host, or becoming a tea party guest, people should contact Kath Davies on (01743) 232992 or kath.davies@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

College marks a landmark year



Kathy Griffiths, left, and Katie Lane from sponsors Whittingham Riddell LLP at the Derwen College December tree planting

STAFF and students at a college rounded off their 90th anniversary year by planting an avenue of 12 trees.

Students at the Derwen College at Gobowen near Oswestry planted a tree every month for a year to mark the landmark year.

The first event took place last January, with an Acer davidii George Forest being the first tree of the year to be planted.

The final tree, for December, was a festive evergreen holly tree which was provided by the local independent accountancy Whittingham Riddell LLP.

Derwen College is a specialist residential college for young people aged between 16 and 25 with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The college was founded in 1927 by Dame Agnes Hunt, who had also founded the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic hospital with her colleague Robert Jones.

To mark the 90th anniversary, staff and students took part in a range of events throughout the year.

Land-based studies programme co-ordinator Will Lyon said that staff and students had been delighted to mark the college's ninth decade with a lasting legacy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Academic ability shines in essay

A TALENTED sixth form student has been shortlisted for the NCH London essay competition.

Georgina Lang, who attends Moreton Hall School near Oswestry, will take part in the competition which invites ambitious and talented students in their final year of secondary education to enter. It is also an opportunity to show academic potential and passion in the humanities and social sciences. Georgina's essay was in response to the question, 'do we need philosophers?'.

The student has been invited to attend the award ceremony on Wednesday at the New College of Humanities, London. The event will be hosted by Professor AC Grayling and attended by faculty and students of NCH, London.

New road orders ban to be lifted

NEW road safety and traffic management schemes could soon be in place following the lifting of a ban on new orders by Powys County Council.

The council approved a general moratorium for new permanent traffic regulation orders in January 2009 – implemented from April that year – as part of a saving measure only allowing new orders if they were funded as part of a capital scheme.

Now the council feels conditions have changed, and the measure can be lifted. Cabinet member for highways, Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick said: "The moratorium served a useful purpose but traffic management and road conditions have changed and we feel it is important to have the flexibility to improve highway safety when necessary. In future we will use permanent traffic orders, including parking orders, to improve traffic management and road safety in the county."

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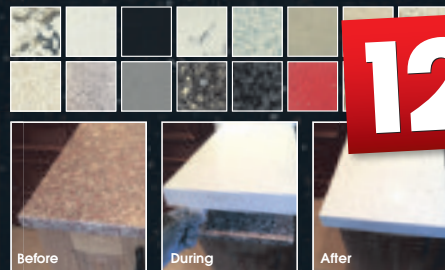
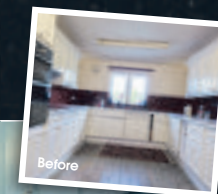
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Society to get together again

THE second meeting of the 2017-2018 season of The Welshpool Society will be held on Tuesday next week, organisers have said.

The meeting of the group will be held at 7.30pm.

The group's meeting will take place at The Corn Exchange at Welshpool Town Hall.

Frances Ward will give a talk entitled "David Evans, Glass Stayner: the life and times of a nineteenth century Shrewsbury stained glass maker".

All are welcome to attend the society's meeting.

The admission cost is £2.50.

Tea and coffee will be available at the meeting.

Village homes hit by water burst

ABOUT 1,000 village properties were without water on New Year's Day.

A burst pipe meant homes in Guilsfield near Welshpool found themselves without a water supply from 8.45am.

Sewer Trent workers were on scene in just over half an hour and were able to get supply restored to the vast majority of people within an hour. Spokeswoman Sarah O'Kane said: "Workers were able to rezone the water supply very quickly. It meant that just 21 properties were left without water for the morning while the burst was fixed."

"We apologise for the inconvenience, it is very difficult to be left without water, particularly on New Year's Day morning when what a lot of people need is a cup of tea. Thankfully our workforce had most people back on supply within the hour."

Lack of hospital beds sees police break law

Report by Jonny Drury

A NEW review led by the head of Dyfed-Powys Police has revealed that forces are holding people with mental health issues in custody beyond the statutory maximum time.

The review of forces in England and Wales has shown that people are being held in custody due to difficulties getting hospital beds.

People are taken to custody under arrest and then diverted from the criminal justice to the mental health system as a patient.

Officers often have to decide to keep someone detained for their own safety, despite there being no power in domestic law to do it.

A review by 21 police forces found 264 cases involved the police feeling obliged to keep someone safe by holding them in custody beyond the period allowed by custody law because of delays in finding a hospital bed.

National Police Chiefs' Council lead for mental health and policing, and Dyfed-Powys Police Chief Constable Mark Collins said: "Police officers have a duty to ensure that anyone brought into custody facing a mental health crisis is directed to a medical professional as soon as possible."

"It is a real concern that this is not happening quickly enough in potentially thousands of cases and each case potentially represents a violation of that person's fundamental human rights."

Tourism group co-opts new director



MWT Cymru chairman Rowland Rees-Evans welcomes Emma Thompson

AN independent organisation that represents around 600 tourism and hospitality businesses across Mid Wales has co-opted a new director.

Emma Thompson, general manager of Powis Castle, Welshpool, replaces Paul Boland, the National Trust's general manager for Mid and South East Wales Coast and Countryside, who stood down after many years' service to MWT Cymru.

She was appointed at MWT Cymru's annual meeting held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

A native of Dorset, she has been the National Trust's general manager at Powis Castle for five years. During her 24-year service to the National Trust, she has worked around the UK, including a spell at Chirk Castle.

"As director of MWT Cymru, I hope to make local connections in Powys between attractions' management and discover how we can work better together and raise the profile of Mid Wales as a tourist destination," she said.

"I enjoy living and working in Mid Wales and want to share the region with more people."

Region has 'tremendous potential for growth'

THE Mid Wales economy has tremendous potential for growth, a government minister has said.

The UK Government Minister Guto Bebb met Powys County Council Leader Councillor Rosemarie Harris and cabinet members to discuss the vision to grow the Mid Wales economy. "Growth deals have the potential to re-shape the economic development of a region so I welcome the commitment for a growth deal for Mid Wales," said Councillor Harris.

"Any growth deal for Mid Wales could improve the transport infrastructure, digital connectivity and help to develop new job opportunities for the region."

"This would be of huge benefit to Powys and to Wales as a whole."

The Minister said: "A Mid Wales growth deal would be the catalyst to revolutionise the way our towns and villages in Mid Wales govern themselves - shifting powers down from London and Cardiff to local leaders who are better placed to take decisions for their communities."

"The development of a Midlands Engine across the border offers a unique chance to partner and develop a growth corridor stretching all the way from Aberystwyth to the Midlands. With the launch of our Industrial Strategy, which includes opportunities for a growth deal for Mid Wales, there has never been a better time for businesses, local authorities and the agriculture sector to seize the opportunity to come together and build a strong vision for Mid Wales."

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House prices are on the increase

THE price of the average home in Shropshire has risen in the last year, new figures show.

In the Telford & Wrekin Council area, the average house price is £159,351, rising by 4.16 per cent.

In Shropshire Council's area, annual prices rose by 1.41 per cent to £203,496.

Prices in Powys are now 3.7 per cent ahead of a year ago at £179,091 in the Mid Wales county.

Across the UK property prices have risen by 4.5 per cent to an average of £223,807 in October, but these figures are hugely unbalanced by the price of properties in London and the south east.

In the West Midlands, the average is £186,351 and has risen 5.2 per cent in the last year.

Poet's words to feature on £2 coin

HE died just a week before the end of the Great War.

And now it is revealed the words of Wilfred Owen will form a poignant commemoration to the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

The Oswestry-born poet features on a new £2 coin, revealed as a year of events to mark the anniversary of the end of the war begun.

The £2 coin features a quote from Owen's poem Strange Meeting – 'the truth untold, the pity of war'.

Owen, who was virtually unknown in his lifetime, wrote many of his poems in 1917 and 1918.

They were published after his death in action, aged just 25, during a British assault on the German-held Sambre Canal on the Western Front on November 4, 1918, seven days before the signing of the Armistice which ended the Great War.

Survey reveals a good year for Welsh tourism

Report by Jonny Drury

A NEW survey has showed tourism in Powys and across Wales has had a successful year.

However, Rowland Rees-Evans, chairman of Mid Wales Tourism, an organisation that represents businesses, has warned that business profit margins were squeezed by rising costs.

The tourism barometer revealed that nationally 42 per cent of the businesses surveyed had more visitors than last year, while 39 per cent reported a similar level – in Mid Wales the figures were 44 per cent and 36 per cent.

More than half of food venues fed more people in 2017 than they did last year and 50 per cent of attractions and activity operators had seen more visitors.

Forty-one per cent of caravan and campsite operators welcomed more people and 43 per cent of self-catering operators reported a similar number of visitors to last year, with around a third taking more bookings.

A third of businesses said their own marketing, including social media, had contributed towards the increase in visitors. Two fifths of businesses reported an increase in profitability while 35 per cent said profits were about the same as last year.

Mr Rees-Evans, who runs Penrhos Park, a country club, golf complex and holiday park, said: "The survey shows that we are attracting more visitors to Wales but also reflects concern about the rising costs that are eating into the profitability of businesses. I can vouch for the fact that more British people are staycationing and that there is a trend towards shorter breaks. Our forward bookings for 2018 have been good which is very positive."

Couple are true friends to hospital



Martin and Brenda Coggon are supporters of the hospital's League of Friends

HARDWORKING fundraisers Martin and Brenda Coggon popped into Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital's League of Friends' offices with the fruits of the labours of the organisation's Corwen branch.

Husband and wife team Martin and Brenda are staunch supporters of The League of Friends.

Brenda is chairman of the Corwen branch and Martin is secretary.

Corwen's donation of £1,000 has been raised from charity events organised and supported by them with their team of helpers over recent months.

"I want to say thank you to all our branch leaders," said Victoria Sugden, charity director for The League of Friends. "Brenda and Martin are typical of the support and enthusiasm we receive and we are so indebted to them."

Martin has recently been elected public governor, North Wales on the council of governors for the hospital.

The League of Friends is currently searching for more branch members and volunteers.

Call (01691) 404401/404527 for more information about the league and its fundraising opportunities.

Car park fire couple tell of their terror fears

A COUPLE have described how they feared they were being attacked by terrorists after being caught up in a fire close to the Liverpool International Horse Show.

They evacuated their hotel as flames took hold in a car park destroying their S-Class Mercedes along with 1,400 other vehicles.

Victoria Courtney and her partner Mark Windsor were attending the horse show on New Year's Eve when they heard explosions.

The blaze ripped through a multi-storey car park next to the Echo Arena. Victoria, 48, of Knockin Heath near Oswestry, said they were in their hotel nearby when the alarm was raised. She said: "We started hearing booms that were getting louder and louder."

"My first worry was that it was a terrorist attack – it was New Year's Eve and we were in a big city."

"Someone knocked on our door and told us the hotel was being evacuated and we had to leave immediately."

"We were escorted to the Hilton – it was like an airport when flights are cancelled in there, chaos."

"There was no where to sit, we couldn't get anything to eat or drink."

Friends eventually picked them up in the early hours of the morning and took them to another hotel.

Victoria added: "We managed about two hours sleep before trying to sort out how to get back to Liverpool to retrieve our belongings."

"Our full spec Mercedes S-class was just two years old."

The fire left hundreds stranded overnight. The blaze is believed to have started accidentally.

No casualties have been reported and no animals were hurt.

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Many people join a gym in January and our regions has many gyms to choose from.

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A lot of the gyms in our region have highly qualified staff who will help you set out an exercise routine which is especially designed for you.

Other people take up a new hobby to improve their activity levels.

Activities such as yoga and swimming can not only improve your health but also improve your mental health wellbeing too.

Other people look at changing their lifestyle by taking on a healthy challenge whether that is setting a target to run a half marathon, take on a charity challenge or simply promise themselves they will take regular exercise.

If you want to improve your health, you can also get out and about and enjoy the great outdoors.

We are lucky in the Welshpool and Oswestry area that we have fantastic places to visit when we want to get a big breath of fresh air.

Our region has many natural attractions and many people simply love to get away from it all by walking or rambling in the hills around our towns and villages.

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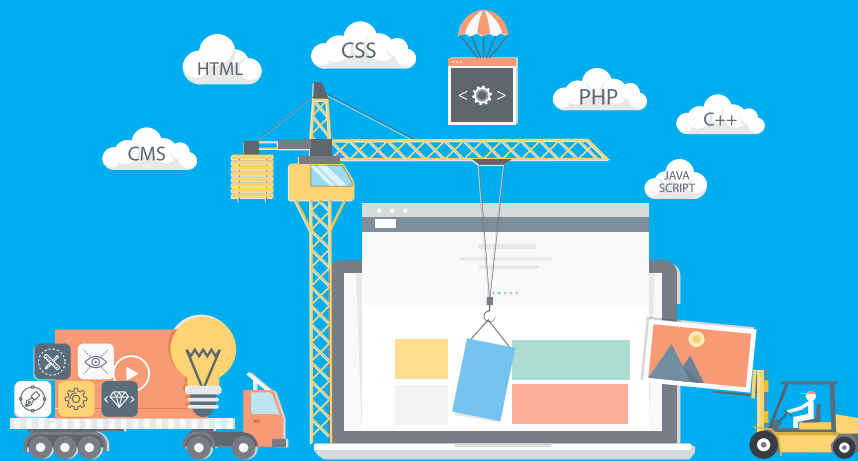
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16 Business offers free days out to area's schools

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, January 4, 2018

A TOURIST attraction is offering free trips to 10 of the most needy schools in the region.

The British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry is already a popular destination for schools and its chairman Clive Knowles is keen to ensure everyone gets a chance to visit.

He has written to more than 100 schools offering them a day out.

"This opportunity allows for 10 of the most needy schools to obtain a complimentary school trip here," he said.

"We would like schools to tell us why they would benefit from this support."

He said he knew that many schools were struggling with funding.

Mr Knowles said: "We are in an area of economic difficulty and there may be schools with children that need encouragement, within a specific area of education or experience. They might also have children who may struggle going to other venues.

"With many schools struggling with balancing finances and the recognition that children are spending more time studying and less in play, we hope to help as many schools as possible will add this to their 2018 calendar.

"There are several options to choose from and we can discuss something possibly unique to that particular school."

Pre-school's report wins praise from MP

CONSERVATIVE MP Glyn Davies has praised staff at a school near Welshpool for its good Estyn inspection report.

Montgomery Pre-school has been rated as good for both current performance and prospects for improvement, which signifies that Estyn have judged the pre-school as having many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.

The report also commented that children make steady progress in achieving good standards across all areas of learning, and that it is very well led with all staff members working well together as a team.

Mr Davies said: "I'm really pleased to see that Montgomery Pre-School has been given such an excellent report by Estyn inspectors.

"The report has acknowledged that the pre-school is well led with clear targets being set and matched, and that children are making good progress and achieving high standards across the board."

The Montgomeryshire MP added: "This report continues the trend of brilliant inspection results which have been attained by pre-schools and schools across Montgomeryshire, serving to highlight the enormous contribution that teachers, pupils, parents and volunteers make to our communities."

Teen singer gets position in final

A TEENAGER who dreams of treading the boards in the West End has secured a place in the grand finals of a national competition.

Kizzy Lumley-Edwards, from Whittington, near Oswestry, earned a place in the finals of Britain Does Variety, which is based in part on the Got Talent franchise.

After a successful initial video audition, the Ellesmere College student was invited to perform at the regional shows in Manchester in front of judges. Kizzy, who began singing at the age of nine, performed Think of Me, from Andrew Lloyd Webbers' Phantom of the Opera. She said: "I have always been obsessed with the musical and why not sing one of my favourite songs in this competition? My main goal is to become a classical singer and potentially, one day, I could play Christine Daaé in the West End." Since joining the school, Kizzy has been an integral part of Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and Choral Society as well as the Senior Orchestra and the Woodard String Quartet, run by director of music Tony Coupe. It's not only on the national stage that Kizzy has been gaining success. She won the under 15 vocal solo musical theatre and came second in the under 15 vocal solo own choice class at the recent Lichfield Festival of Music.

Decision to rule on criminal custody cases outside county 'makes no sense' – Champion

Report by Lisa O'Brien

A DECISION to handle all criminal custody remand cases in a court outside of Shropshire "makes no sense", according to the region's police and crime commissioner.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion and Telford & Wrekin Council's deputy leader Councillor Richard Overton have been highly critical of the decision taken by HM Courts and Tribunals Service.

It means that remand cases currently heard at Telford Magistrates Court are expected to be centralised in Kidderminster, following consultation by the courts and tribunals service.

Mr Campion and Councillor Overton said the plans could heighten the risk of re-offending.

They have called for further talks over the proposal, after raising concerns that the move

will put West Mercia Police under even more financial pressure.

In total, there were 62 responses to a consultation on the proposal, which finished in August.

In a report, the Ministry of Justice revealed that reaction to the plans was mixed.

But despite the issues raised by those that responded, the Ministry of Justice still suggests remand cases are heard at Kidderminster.

Mr Campion said there had been a "complete failure" to recognise the impact the move would have on other services, particularly West Mercia Police. He said: "I am disappointed that HM

Courts and Tribunals Service didn't engage with me more to look at more efficient ways of making this work.

"The decision to have only one remand court within an area that is the geographical size and complexity of West Mercia makes no sense.

"Any savings for the court service could be passed to the police to pick up as a result of having to move prisoners across a vast area.

"There is also a risk of re-offending from defendants having to make their own way home from the court.

"There are more efficient ways of making this work and reducing demand on others, such as creating multiple remand courts or introducing digital solutions like video-link.

"I would welcome the opportunity for further

conversations with HMCTS in order to review how these other options can be introduced."

Councillor Overton also called for further talks. He said: "This is a proposal that makes no sense and I would urge HMCTS to reconsider.

"Whatever savings would be made financially are completely negated by the logistical and operational complications that centralisation of the remand court system would pose."

"This is bad news for victims, witnesses, defendants and all their families.

"It would also mean Shropshire is the only county in England without a fully functioning magistrates court and you would have to be concerned about the future of Shrewsbury Crown Court as well."

Report by Lisa O'Brien

SHROPSHIRE'S hospital trusts have paid out more than £11.5 million in claims over the last year.

A total of £9.78m – of which £5.88m was paid in compensation – was paid out on behalf of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) for clinical negligence claims in 2016/17, new figures have revealed.

The trust runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

A total of £1.81m was also paid out on behalf of The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen.

Of that amount, £1.34m was paid in damages.

The remainder of the money paid out on behalf of the trusts for negligence claims went to defence and claimant costs.

Historical

Some of the payouts relate to historical cases. NHS Resolution funds the total cost of clinical negligence claims dating from April 1995 on behalf of health trusts.

It replaced the NHS Litigation Authority last year.

Responding to the figures Julia Clarke, director of corporate governance at SaTH, said the payments relate to a "relatively small number of cases", and that the trust is focussed on providing safe care and learning from mistakes.

A spokesperson from The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust said claims were taken seriously to "ensure we learn lessons for the future".

Gill George, from Shropshire Defend Our NHS, said the figures demonstrate why more money should be invested in the NHS. She said: "I think those figures reveal the disastrous underfunding of our NHS is leading directly to inadequate patient care despite heroic efforts from frontline staff.

"The solution can't be further cuts.

"All of it comes back to a lack of money. The NHS is crumbling. Our MPs need to sort out the underfunding of healthcare."

Elsewhere in the Midlands, a total of £11.9m was paid out in 2016/17 on behalf of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, for clinical negligence claims. The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, had a total bill of £9.6m paid over 2016/17.

Chance to become a Team Hope House member



Hope House Children's Hospice is looking for more people to help fundraise for the charity in 2018 to ensure its vital work can continue

HOPE House Children's Hospice is looking for energetic people to sign up to its sporting fundraising events as part of Team Hope House in 2018.

The children's charity is backing a range of events from half marathons, aquathons and triathlons as well as organising its popular annual cycle challenge and its brand new Snowdon Trek.

First out of the blocks is Chester Half Marathon and Shrewsbury Aquathon on April 29 followed by various other half marathons including Lake Vyrnwy and North Wales half marathon and the popular Shrewsbury Triathlon.

Challenges are subject to registration fees

and minimum sponsorship for each event entered. In return supporters will receive their free Hope House running vest, fundraising pack and support up to and on the day.

If supporters have already registered for these events or wish to register for an event not listed, they can still become part of Team Hope House by committing to raise minimum sponsorship.

The first ever Hope House one day Snowdon Trek will take people to the summit of the highest mountain in England and Wales, Mount Snowdon, on Sunday, July 1.

The trek will follow the most popular route to the summit, the Llanberis Trail, with a team of experienced mountain guides, guiding volun-

teers along the route at check-in points. Registration is £20 plus £100 sponsorship per person to include a free t-shirt.

The annual Hope House Cycle Challenge reaches its 10th anniversary in 2018 and will take place on August 5. The popular ride will be going back to its original two scenic routes – 56 miles to Lake Vyrnwy and 72 miles to Bala Lake. Cyclists will be treated to a snack stop at a Half Way Feed Station and a delicious home-made feast of cakes and savouries at the end. Cyclists can register for the early bird price of £25, on the day entry will be available at £35. To sign up for any of the events visit www.hopehouse.org.uk/what/son or call (01691) 671671.

College leading the way in building for the future

NORTH Shropshire College in Oswestry has been leading the way in providing the unemployed with job opportunities through the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) which is delivered in conjunction with Wem, Shrewsbury and Oswestry Job Centres.

A CSCS card is essential in the construction industry, as heavy fines can be incurred if personnel are employed without one, but the overall cost of the card can be a huge barrier for those with little income or savings.

By attending a two-week intensive employ-

ability programme, those who are referred by their local Job Centre will be able to study at the college's Oswestry campus and Wem Learning Centre, undertaking a refresher in several key employability skills as job seeking and interview skills.

In addition to these valuable skills, attendees will also be able to take mock tests to put their learning into practice prior to taking the final CSCS test.

A CSCS card gained through the scheme will remain valid for five years.

The college has provided the expertise that has helped hundreds of candidates to successfully complete the programme over the past few years, and many of them have gone on to join a workforce that is involved in a diverse range of building projects including the construction of the Newtown Bypass and other housing developments throughout Shropshire.

Michelle Brydie, a current student, said: "I came on this course as a way of gaining my CSCS card so that I may apply for painting and decorating jobs in an industrial setting.

"The course has been a great way to gain experience, as my goal is to be self-employed."

Leslie Howell, who also attends the course said: "I really see this as a great opportunity for both young and old people who want to get into work.

"Personally this course will help me as I wish to get into the construction industry and gaining a CSCS card will open doors for me. I can't wait to start work and give back to the community."

For more information call (01691) 688050.

Authority has forked out more than £2m on agency staff so far this financial year

SHROPSHIRE Council has forked out more than £2 million on agency staff this financial year to date, new figures given to councillors have revealed.

It is currently forecast that the total spent on agency staff by the end of this financial year will be £4.1 million.

The total spend so far is £2,070,378, according to the figures.

Qualified

Among the agency staff used by Shropshire Council bosses this financial year, there have been 42 qualified social workers and 25 social workers.

There are also 19 assessors, four team managers, two service managers, one early help

Report by Jordan Reynolds

social worker and one senior social worker, a report says.

The average length of placements is 34 weeks.

The longest active placement is currently 111 weeks, which is more than two years.

Councillor Pam Moseley requested the information on agency staff ahead of a Shropshire Council meeting.

Councillor Steve Charmley, portfolio holder for corporate support, said in his reply to Councillor Moseley that some of the teams are facing areas of "recruitment shortages" where it is "difficult to attract permanent staff".

He said the agency staff employed by the local authority helped make sure the council delivered necessary services.

And he said the temporary staff have the same employment terms and conditions as permanent staff after they work for the council for 12 weeks.

Councillor Charmley said: "Agency staff have an important role in providing flexible and knowledgeable staff to teams who need extra support."

"When teams are undergoing service redesign or peaks in workflow or staff absence, temporary agency staff gives managers another resource to help deliver the necessary service function."

"Some of our teams are also facing areas of

recruitment shortages, where it is difficult to attract permanent staff. With the introduction of the Agency Worker Regulations in October 2011, temporary workers have the same employment terms and conditions as our permanent employees after 12 weeks of continuous employment in the same role.

Managed

"We currently use Matrix Supply Chain Management as our managed service provider, which is a portal for managers to advertise to a wide supply chain and manage the appointment and timesheets in an efficient manner."

"Not all placements are on Matrix SCM, so the management information we have on these placements is not as detailed."

Uplands project could be the answer to flooding problems

Report by Sue Austin

USING the uplands of Mid Wales to store water could stop floods that plague the lowlands of Shropshire, it has been suggested.

Montgomeryshire MP, Glyn Davies, said he would be campaigning for the Pumlumon Project – a scheme that would recreate the wetlands of a vast area of upland countryside and avoid the water running into the rivers and down to the flood plains.

The MP says he will be looking for a chance to air the plans in Parliament to get support for the idea.

Championed by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, the Pumlumon Project was first suggested a decade ago. Its aim would be to return uplands to boggy, wetland areas that would act as a sponge, retaining the rain and snow water in the mountains and allowing a slow release into the tributaries of water courses including the River Severn and the River Wye.

Restoration

The trust says such large-scale ecological restoration can bring economic, social and environmental benefits.

But it will take a huge shift in public attitudes and expectations and new funding before it could be established.

Mr Davies said he had recently seen grazing land on the Severn Valley near Welshpool flooded. "The acres of land under water are better than flooding Shrewsbury, Tewkesbury and other towns further south," he said.

"But we could do so much more. The Pumlumon Range could save the nation a mega fortune if converted into water storage."

"I am not talking about constructing reservoirs but using the peat areas to store water followed by slow release."

"Because it would reduce productivity of the land, there would have to be a subsidy regime for farmers and landowners. We are talking millions of pounds here and the problem is that while all the work would be carried out in Wales, it would be the people of England that would benefit. We need to take a all UK approach to something that is so big."

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust says the scheme would reduce the effects of flooding on huge numbers of farms, homes and businesses, transform the local economy, safeguard vast stores of carbon, and bring back vanished wildlife.

£21k given to trust in memory of Stephen



Ann Edwards, Sarah Evans, Hayley Jackson and Julie Powell with Dr Smith, Gina Caton and Dr Jeff Butterworth

NEARLY £22,000 has been handed over to the NHS trust which runs Shropshire's two main hospitals after a big fundraising effort launched by an estate agent who had been diagnosed with cancer.

Stephen Powell started the Stephen Powell Cancer Research Fund when he was found to have gastro-oesophageal cancer in 2012.

Stephen, who was a well-known auctioneer and estate agent for Halls in Oswestry, lost his battle in 2014. He had raised more than £16,000.

Efforts to raise cash for the fund continued and his sister Julie, who is a nurse at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH),

helped to present a cheque for £21,191 to the endoscopy unit, where Stephen was treated.

Julie said: "My brother was diagnosed in 2012, and the first thing that he did when he was diagnosed was start the Stephen Powell Cancer Research Fund. He underwent radical treatment but unfortunately lost his battle on December 1, 2014."

"Stephen wanted to help the people of Shropshire and Powys so if they were ever diagnosed with oesophageal cancer, the money would go towards diagnosis and treatment."

The cheque was presented to trust consultant, Dr Mark Smith by Julie along with Ann Edwards, Sarah Evans and Hayley Jackson of

Halls. Julie added: "Stephen was an auctioneer and estate agent, and so was well known in Oswestry and the surrounding districts."

"They have given a lot of the money and we are repaying them for their kindness, because they would benefit from the equipment that the money is going towards."

"My brother would be extremely touched by the amount of money raised and so pleased that it is going to such a beneficial service."

Dr Smith said: "The endoscopy team at SaTH is very grateful for all the work the Stephen Powell Cancer Research Fund has done in his memory to raise this spectacular sum of almost £22,000."

Large housing applications to go before councillors

APPLICATIONS involving two substantial housing developments in two separate villages in Mid Wales are set to go before local councillors.

Applications for 23 houses in Forden and 37 houses in Arddleen, both near Welshpool, will be considered by Powys County Council's planning committee.

The application for 23 homes at Heritage Green in Forden already has outline planning permission.

An application regarding reserved matters

has now been submitted by Steve Jennings of Primesave Properties.

Outline permission was granted in July, however local councillor Linda Corfield is unhappy with the application and believes changes need to be made.

She said in a letter that the development was not in keeping with the area of Heritage Green, and that £5,000 should be put forward to extend the play area near the development.

She has called for more affordable housing, as the application lists just two properties, and

said some of the plan is contrary to the unitary development plan.

If given the go-ahead even more houses could be built in Arddleen, after an application was made by RG and JR Bebb to build on land at Trederwen View.

A total of 37 homes could be built as part of the application, which includes vehicular access and an addition to the school car park with new access. Llandrinio and Arddleen Community Council is against the development because of what is seen as potential problems and safety

issues that could be caused by extra traffic accessing the road to the development.

Councillors have also stated in a letter to planners that more needs to be done to help the local school increase in size to deal with the impact of the construction of the homes, and that medical facilities in the area will not be able to cope with an increased population. Jim Knight, a housing officer at Powys County Council, has said in his representations that he wants to see 30 per cent of the homes being listed as affordable housing.

Activities in villages could come to an end

HOLIDAY activities for children in villages near Oswestry could end under council cuts.

Holiday activities for families in Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn are run by the TNS Foundation, with funding support by Shropshire Council and others.

However the unitary authority is proposing to cut the funding and concentrate on Shrewsbury and five market towns.

The changes follow the council move to introduce a revised and simplified funding formula based on two measures, the number of 10-19 year olds in an area and the number in receipt of free school meals. It will take out mention of rurality in the formula.

Changes would mean Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn have a score of 3.9 per cent, under the five per cent needed for funding.

Oswestry would continue to be supported, with a rating of six per cent.

The foundation, the community arm of The New Saints football club, has appealed to people to take part in consultation over the planned cutbacks stressing, that consultation ends tomorrow (Friday).

People can take part in the consultation through the Shropshire Council website, <http://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/> changes-to-provision-of-youth-activities.

Chance to see some secrets of waterway

NATIONAL lottery players will have the chance to take a look behind the £1.2 million construction of nature reserves.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after the Montgomery Canal near Oswestry, is inviting visitors behind the scenes at the Aston Locks construction.

The locks are benefitting from a £2.5m grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore part of the canal, as part of a £4m, four-year project.

The canal on the Shropshire/Welsh border is currently only partly navigable and is designated a site of Special Scientific Interest.

The trust is inviting people to join the charity's project manager David Hennessey and ecologist Sara Hill for a free tour around the site.

It was due to take place a few weeks ago, but was cancelled due to the weather conditions. It will be rearranged for the spring for those who wish to attend.

Bookings can be made by contacting craig.obrien@canalrivertrust.org.uk

David Hennessey, project manager at Canal & River Trust said: "The Montgomery Canal is among the UK's most picturesque canals, and is renowned for its outstanding natural beauty, wildlife and heritage."

Answers wanted on cancellations

A POLITICIAN has questioned why a rail operator has been repeatedly cancelling trains from Mid Wales into England in recent weeks.

The deterioration of the rail service operated by Arriva Trains Wales on the Cambrian Line was raised by Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George in the Welsh Assembly.

One of Mr George's constituents, Christopher Banks, a student living in Newtown and studying in Shrewsbury, reported that cancellations had reached an unacceptable frequency with the 07.38am service cancelled on November 13, 17, 20, 21, 27 and 29.

After questioning the First Minister, Mr George said: "The odd cancellation once every few months is part and parcel of railway life and whilst aggravating, customers can accept and put up with it."

"But there have been a large number of cancellations or part cancellations recently with no alternative bus service being provided, leaving Cambrian Line passengers totally in the lurch."

First Minister Carwyn Jones said the cancellations were unacceptable, and hoped to see the service improve when the franchise is given to another bidder in the near future.

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| April 8th | April Fools Car Show |
| May 5th-6th | Napoleonic Re-enactment & Living History Weekend |
| May 27th | Open Air Shakespeare "The Festival Players" - A Winters Tale |
| July 28th-29th | Multi Period Living History Event - our largest event of the year from Medieval to World War 11 - living history encampments plus demonstrations throughout the days. |
| August 27th | Whittington Vintage Fete |
| October 26th-30th | Whittington Castle Ghost Tours |
| October 28th | Halloween Daytime Event |
| October 31st | Halloween Evening Event |
| December 9th/16th & 23rd | Whittington Castle Father Christmas Grotto |
| December 28th-30th | Mince Pie Guided Tours of the Castle |

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ask questions of council at meetings

POWYS residents will be able to ask questions in a county council meeting as part of a public participation initiative.

Last year Powys County Council allowed members of the public to ask questions at a meeting of full council for the first time ever as part of a trial to improve links with county residents.

The council has agreed to have a 20-minute slot at the start of each county council agenda for public questions.

The next meeting of full council will be on January 25 and questions need to be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday to be considered.

Questions must relate to Powys and/or the services the council provides.

If accepted by the chair of the council they will be added to the agenda.

Grants are up for grabs for groups

COMMUNITY groups and organisations in the Gobowen area can get help from a grant scheme.

The Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council is offering grants to those groups within the parish.

Parish councillors will be discussing all the applications at their March meeting.

People who want to apply for the grants can fill out an application form or find out more information by contacting the parish clerk on (01691) 829571.

Alternatively they can email clerk@selattyn-gobowenpc.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is February 16.

Dedication of storekeeper Shirley sees her crowned a Health Hero

STOREKEEPER Shirley Oakley's determination to source the best Christmas food for patients and staff alike has seen her named the latest recipient of the Health Hero Award at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Shirley is a member of the catering team at the hospital and was nominated by catering manager, Dan Hoggett.

The Health Hero Award is presented every month to a different member of staff who shows dedication and commitment to their job role.

Dan said: "Shirley is one of the many staff in the catering department that goes above and beyond for the benefit of the patients and the hospital."

"Recently, she's done a lot of groundwork for the upcoming Food Management Plan, one of the biggest changes the kitchen has seen in a while which will ensure the safety and quality of our food to patients, staff and visitors."

"All year round she goes the extra mile, but during the festive period she magically sources and stores all the food for staff and patients to indulge on."

"Her attention to detail ensures Christmas time runs as smoothly as possible and it seems effortless to the untrained eye."

"It would be wonderful for Shirley to win this award to show our appreciation for all her hard work."

Shirley said: "I want to thank Dan



Shirley Oakley receives her Health Hero award from orthopaedic hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth

for nominating me and all my past and present managers for encouraging and supporting me."

"It feels so rewarding to be recognised, but this award is definitely a reflection of the whole catering team." The award was presented to her by

chief executive Mark Brandreth. He said: "From my time at RJA, I've learnt Shirley is an absolute stalwart in the hospital and Dan's nomination just reiterated her commitment to her job."

"She is part of a team of catering

staff who do an absolutely amazing job – as proven by the Adult Inpatient Survey where patients rated food at RJA as the best in the NHS."

"I am absolutely delighted to present her with the Health Hero Award for December."

Potholes to be repaired quicker due to purchase

NEW machinery that will help repair roads has been purchased by Powys County Council.

A capital investment of over £425,000 has seen the council purchase two Archway Roadmaster spray injection patching machines, which will tackle several times the number of road defects compared to traditional patching methods.

One of the machines, which is operated by one person from the cab of the vehicle, recently repaired 40 square metres of potholes. It would have taken a four-person workforce using traditional patching methods and numerous pieces of equipment all day to repair the same amount of potholes.

With budgets under increasing pressure, the new machines are seen as a cost-effective way of maintaining the county's highway network.

Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick, cabinet member for highways, said: "Our highways teams work very hard all year round trying to keep our roads in good condition but we are always looking at how we can make our highways operations as efficient as possible."

"These new machines will help us repair our roads cheaper, quicker and safer than the traditional patching methods we have used in the past. Another benefit is that only one person is needed to operate the patching machine."

"There is also zero material wastage when these machines are being operated so not only will this help us keep operation costs to a minimum, it is also more environmentally friendly."

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Pupils given taste of life at college

Report by Jonny Drury

NORTH Shropshire College recently held a taster day across the Oswestry and Walford Campuses to show year 11 pupils what life as a student at the college is like.

The events were a huge success and there was a diverse range of subjects on offer from beauty therapy to animal management which were widely enjoyed by those who attended.

In addition to the taster sessions, pupils had the chance to win a £20 high street voucher if they took part in the feedback survey, with Millie Batchelor from Mary Webb School, Pontesbury being the lucky winner.

Chloe Edwards, schools liaison and marketing coordinator at the college, organised and coordinated the event.

She said: "The Taster Day was a great success."

"It was my first time organising the day and we were pleased to have nearly 400 prospective students take part."

"The lecturing staff put on fantastic, interactive and fun sessions which were the highlight of the day for all, and I would like to thank the staff at NSC for their help in making the event a success. Taster events are a fantastic opportunity for prospective students to see what they might like to study in their future education, and to see the amazing facilities that are on offer."

The college will be hosting open events at all campuses in February for anyone who wishes to find out more about the courses on offer from the



Professional cookery lecturer Dan Thompson instructs students making apple samosas during the Oswestry campus taster day

highly experienced lecturers at the college. For more information about the courses available, or to apply now for

September, visit the website at www.nsc.ac.uk or call the admissions team on (01691) 688080.

Detached chapel conversion lies in an idyllic location

A stunning three-bedroom detached chapel conversion, Craignant in Selattyn is immaculately presented throughout and lies in an idyllic location. In a position from which beautiful views can be enjoyed, and having many original features, it is for sale through Town & Country at £365,000.

A superb residence which has retained all of its character and charm throughout, its beautiful features include rustic beams, a part vaulted ceiling and the original front door. This lovely property is situated in a peaceful country setting. Its accommodation briefly comprises an open plan living room, dining room and hallway. There is also a downstairs cloakroom/WC, a kitchen/breakfast room and a utility room. There are three double bedrooms and two bathrooms. To the outside is a garage/workshop, ample off-road parking, beautiful gardens and a hot tub. The Chapel is warmed by oil central heating and double glazing. The village of Selattyn is nearby and Oswestry is just 3.5 miles away. The entrance by way of the original chapel door is protected by a covered entrance porch with a pitched slated roof. The entrance hallway has tiled flooring and a staircase off. The living room has beamed ceilings and wooden flooring, a stone inglenook fireplace with an inset cast iron multi-fuel burner and a beam over. The dining area has beamed ceilings and wooden flooring. An inner hallway has marble effect tiling to the floor, a stone wall and a stable door leading to the rear. The kitchen has a good range of white base and wall kitchen units, a double electric oven and grill with a four ring ceramic hob, a built-in fridge and dishwasher, beamed ceiling, marble effect flooring and a heated towel rail. The utility room has wall mounted base units with worktop surface space, plumbing for a washing machine, space for a freezer, tiled walls and marble-effect flooring.

Outside, the property sits in approximately 0.6 acres of gardens. To the rear there is a bridge leading from the first floor landing through feature arched doors and leading onto a elevated patio area. There is a garage/workshop and front, rear, side gardens.

KEY FEATURES

- Chapel conversion
- Three bedrooms
- Idyllic location
- Beautiful views
- Many original features

SELATTYN £365,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Former pub has been upgraded to a spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£480,000

<<<

In a pleasant location, Tontine Inn in Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is a former public house that has now been upgraded to become a spacious family home or run as a bed and breakfast.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000.

Having oil-fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it features a large sun room, an open plan living/dining room with an impressive fireplace and seven first floor bedrooms all having en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities.

The grounds include useful detached stores/workshop or a garage. Access is readily available to the towns of Shrewsbury and Welshpool and the market town of Oswestry.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Retirement home in semi-rural location

GOBOWEN
£104,950

A retirement bungalow situated on an attractive purpose built complex, 24 Meadowbrook Court, Twmpath Lane, Gobowen, has the benefit of a semi-rural location.

The retirement bungalow is for someone with a minimum age of 55 and is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £104,950.

Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, two bedrooms, bathroom/wet room, rear hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining area, conservatory, kitchen and integral garage. The property also has the benefit of a rear vehicle access leading to the garage.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



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Converted chapel situated in quiet lane in village

LLANFECHAIN
£125,000

Swn Yr Afon in the picturesque village of Llanfechain is on the market through Town and Country for £125,000.

There is no chain.
This charmingly quaint two bedroom mid terrace converted chapel is situated on a quiet lane on the edge of the village.

As the name suggests "Swn Yr Afon" which is Welsh for Sound of the River, the property is located close to the river, where the flowing sounds are relaxing enough to calm you to sleep.

Accommodation at the property briefly comprises hallway, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom.

There are gardens to the front and rear of the property with private parking at the rear.



The house is warmed with thermodynamic radiators.
The village amenities include a community shop, village hall, church, primary school and a pub/restaurant.
The market town of Welshpool and Oswestry are only a short distance away.
The village property is an ideal first time buy or holiday let.
Viewing is recommended to appreciate this property and its location. The vendor will offer to pay stamp duty depending on the offer and if it is to be your only residence.

For more information about the property people are asked to contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.



Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON
£549,950

>>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £549,950. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Charming home situated in desirable area on outskirts of town

OSWESTRY
£325,000

<<<

A charming three-bedroom detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and a single garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 595003.



SCOTT'S MORE THAN A PASSING STRANGER

INSIDE

YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

January 6



Casualty
8.30pm
Complications arise with Connie's illness, and she persuades Ethan to drive her to London to seek advice from a leading consultant. Meanwhile, Dylan holds the fort in the ED.



Feud: Bette and Joan
9.15pm
The convivial atmosphere that Bette is creating with her co-stars frustrates Joan, as she tries to sleep following the beginning of filming in Louisiana. Susan Sarandon stars.



Take Me Out
7pm
New series. A hairdresser, a rugby player, a children's entertainer and a student try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents.



Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships
12.45pm
Rob Walker introduces live coverage of the afternoon session on the opening day of the tournament staged at Lakeside Country Club.



Blind Date
8pm
Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which a drama teacher from Surrey and a digger driver from Hull must choose between three unseen suitors.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Matt Tebbutt is joined by guest chefs Ryan Simpson and Liam Trotman. Olly Smith picks the perfect wine to accompany the dishes prepared in the studio.
11.30	Mary Berry Everyday. The food writer celebrates the everyday food and ingredients she has always loved, beginning by travelling to Scotland to sample shellfish and venison. (R)
12.00	BBC News; Weather.
12.15	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines.
12.45	MOTD Live: FA Cup. Fleetwood Town v Leicester City (Kick-off 12.45pm). Coverage of the third-round fixture from Highbury Stadium.
3.00	Money for Nothing. Jay Blades salvages three items bound for the skip in Walsall, featuring a Lloyd Loom-style laundry basket, a reclining chair and an oak writing bureau. (R)
4.00	Film Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of all this afternoon's results from the FA Cup third round, as well as across Scotland.
5.10	Celebrity Mastermind. Famous faces put their knowledge to the test.
5.40	BBC News.
5.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	And They're Off for Sport Relief. New series. Ore Oduba hosts a sporting challenge in which celebrities compete in a series of bizarre races, while members of the public try to predict which star will win.
6.40	Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a 1980s edition of the celebrity quiz, featuring four teams of famous faces from the decade seeking unlikely answers.
7.25	Wedding Day Winners. New series. Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett host a game show in which couples compete for the chance to win a televised wedding and a dream honeymoon.
8.30	Casualty. Complications arise with Connie's illness, and she persuades Ethan to drive her to London to seek advice from a leading consultant. Meanwhile, Dylan holds the fort in the ED.
9.20	BBC News; Weather.
9.35	Hard Sun. New series. Sci-fi crime drama starring Jim Sturgess and Agyness Deyn as two detectives who must find a way to keep the peace after discovering that the world is about to end.
10.30	MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights from the FA Cup third round fixtures contested so far, including Norwich City v Chelsea at Carrow Road, and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Swansea City at Molineux; National Lottery Update.
12.05	The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present a preview of this weekend's NFL Wildcard fixtures.
12.35	FILM: The Resident (2011). A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, but realises her landlord is dangerously obsessed with her. Horror, starring Hilary Swank.
2.00	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.05	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.10	The Wonder of Animals. (R)
6.40	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.
7.10	The Pets Factor.
7.30	Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch.
7.45	Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch.
8.00	The Dengineers.
8.30	Deadly Top 10. (R)
9.00	World's Sneakiest Animals. (R)
10.00	Homes Under the Hammer. (R)
11.00	Pets – Wild at Heart. (R)
12.00	The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. Si King and Dave Myers search for the flavours of Italy. (R)
1.00	Back to the Land with Kate Humble. The presenter champions the UK's most inspirational rural entrepreneurs. (R)
2.00	Rome Unpacked. Part one of two. Giorgio Locatelli and Andrew Graham-Dixon explore Italy's capital. (R)
3.00	FILM: The Letter (1940). Drama, starring Bette Davis.
4.30	Jaguars Born Free: Natural World Special. A family who raised three orphaned jaguar cubs. (R)
5.15	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. Health advice. (R)
5.45	Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight For Good. Chef Tom Kerridge recruits and mentors a group of struggling dieters. (R)
6.15	Hugh's Wild West. New series. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes in search of wildlife with the most dedicated nature lovers in the West Country, beginning in the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean.
7.15	A House Through Time. Documentary charting 180 years of British history as lived through by the successive inhabitants of a terraced house in Liverpool, from the 1840s to the present day. (R)
8.15	Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)
8.45	Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs. Paul Merton travels from Loch Gairloch to Loch Maree, meeting the king and queen of Isonia, matching a medieval feat of archery and diving to a wartime wreck in Loch Ewe.
9.15	Feud: Bette and Joan. The convivial atmosphere that Bette is creating with her co-stars frustrates Joan, as she tries to sleep following the beginning of filming in Louisiana.
10.00	Feud: Bette and Joan. Both actresses reflect on what might have been and Joan gets a call from her agent, who advises her against appearing in low-budget feature The Missing Link. Last in the series.
11.00	Live at the Apollo Christmas Special. Katherine Ryan hosts an extended festive special of the stand-up comedy show, warming up the audience before introducing Marlon Davis, Joel Dommett and John Robins.
11.45	Qi XL. Josh Widdicombe, Susan Calman and Rich Hall join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended episode on the theme of "Origins and Openings".
12.30	Later – with Jools Holland 25th Birthday Show. (R)
2.30	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.55	Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! Adventures with the Scooby gang. (R)
9.05	Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	Saturday Morning with James Martin. James is joined by fellow chef Galton Blackiston and guests Amanda Lamb and Jonathan Phang, with chicken chasseur, jerk pork and chocolate mousse cake on the menu.
11.30	The Hungry Sailors. Dick and James Strawbridge sail into Fowey, Cornwall, where they harvest bananas at the Eden Project, fish for sea trout at night and try their hand at potting clotted cream. (R)
12.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.40	Endeavour. The detective investigates the disappearance of a Dutch au pair and discovers a connection to an earlier unsolved case as conflict erupts between his fellow officers. (R)
2.40	The Greatest TV Moments of All Time. Paddy McGuinness shares some of the best loved TV clips of the past 50 years, with contributions from stars including Holly Willoughby and John Cleese. (R)
4.35	ITV News Central; Weather.
4.45	ITV News and Weather.
4.55	The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh is joined by Claire Richards from Steps, musician and presenter Rowland Rivron, rugby union star James Haskell and Blue singer Antony Costa. (R)
6.00	Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the game show, with Ellie Simmonds, Fay Ripley and Jimmy Carr guessing the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.
7.00	Take Me Out. New series. A hairdresser, a rugby player, a children's entertainer and a student try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents.
8.00	The Voice UK. New series. Olly Murs joins returning coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Jennifer Hudson on the seventh series of the singing contest, which opens with a round of blind auditions.
9.35	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
9.50	FILM: Spectre (2015). James Bond goes in search of the elusive mastermind behind a secret criminal network with links to his own past. Spy thriller, starring Daniel Craig and Christoph Waltz.
12.30	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Babushka. Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some emoji and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

Channel 4	
6.05	Triathlon: Laguna Phuket. Action from the event considered by many to be Asia's leading triathlon.
7.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra's gossiping upsets Ray. (R)
7.25	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert is signed by a modelling agency. (R)
7.50	Frasier. The shrink tries to learn how to play softball. (R)
8.20	Frasier. Roz auditions for a radio presenting job. (R)
8.55	Frasier. The shrink directs a radio mystery drama to mark KACL's 50th anniversary. (R)
9.25	The Big Bang Theory. Penny tries to bond with Leonard's mother during an extended visit. (R)
9.50	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard's recently divorced parents come to town. (R)
10.20	The Big Bang Theory. Pilot episode of the comedy, starring Jim Parsons. (R)
10.50	The Simpsons. Homer and Ned build a theme park. (R)
11.15	The Simpsons. Homer opens a nursery. (R)
11.45	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. Two estate agents are tasked to find an apartment in Spain near the beach. (R)
12.45	Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. Live coverage of the afternoon session on the opening day of the tournament.
5.30	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. Laura Hamilton shows a Brighton duo five properties in south-west France. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Spying on the Royals. Part one of a two-part documentary examining surveillance conducted on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. Featuring dramatic reconstructions and eyewitness accounts. (R)
8.00	Princess Diana's "Wicked" Stepmother. An examination of Diana, Princess of Wales's turbulent relationship with Raine Spencer, who went from hated stepmother to one of her closest confidantes. (R)
9.00	FILM: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2 (2015). Premiere. Katniss Everdeen leads her allies in a final battle to bring down the despotic President Snow. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Donald Sutherland.
11.40	FILM: The Transporter (2002). An underworld courier ends up in a battle of wits with his powerful employers when he lets his conscience get the better of him. Action adventure, with Jason Statham and Shu Qi.
1.25	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A look at what happened after Gordon Ramsay tried to save a bistro in Arizona. (R)
2.15	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Drama following the lives and loves of a group of teenagers and young adults in Chester. (R)
4.00	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer assist two couples who are searching for new homes in Hertfordshire, including a newly engaged pair of accountants. (R)
4.55	Coast vs Country. (R)
5.50	Four in a Bed. Guest house owners in Edinburgh, Stirling, Skegness and East Yorkshire compete. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Simon 6.45 Peppa Pig 6.55 Paw Patrol 7.05 Thomas & Friends 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.05 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Digby Dragon
9.35	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. New series. The gang faces a new enemy.
10.10	Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Another selection of the most popular videos featuring dogs. (R)
10.40	Cruising with Jane McDonald Christmas Special. A seasonal edition finds the singer travelling up the Rhine. (R)
11.40	FILM: West Side Story (1961). Romantic musical, starring Natalie Wood.
2.30	FILM: The Hundred-Foot Journey (2014). Comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren.
3.30	5 News Update.
3.35	FILM: The Hundred-Foot Journey (2014). Concluded.
4.55	5 News Weekend.
5.00	Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud. Internet videos featuring puppies. (R)
6.00	The Wonderful World of Puppies. New series. Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey.
7.00	Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. (R)
8.00	Blind Date. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which a drama teacher from Surrey and a digger driver from Hull must choose between three unseen suitors.
9.00	Celebrity Big Brother. Friday's highlights from the house, including another chance to see what surprise Big Brother sprung on the women last night.
10.00	Worst Celebrity Pop Songs Ever. A countdown of the 40 most memorable records by celebrities, featuring performances by Mr T, Katie Price, Vinnie Jones, Sam Fox and an assortment of soap stars. (R)
11.45	Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Rufus Hound and actress Jorgie Porter go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)
12.15	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. The presenter reveals treasures of the National Trust. (R)
4.00	GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A patient seeks advice about losing weight. (R)
4.45	House Doctor. Ann Maurice visits Maidstone. (R)
5.10	Wildlife SOS. The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R)

January 7

sunday



McMafia

9pm

Alex receives an offer from someone claiming to be an old friend, and Semiyon seeks backing for his business venture - while Lyudmilla uncovers his investors' secrets.



The Real T. Rex with Chris Packham

6pm

Chris Packham uses new insights into Tyrannosaurus rex behaviour and its appearance to create the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever.



The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale

1.40pm
Stars from the soaps are tested on the biggest events and the funniest moments in the Yorkshire Dales and on the cobbles during 2017.



SAS: Who Dares Wins

9pm

New series. Ant Middleton presents a third series of the show in which people are put through SAS recruitment tests, which this time comes from Morocco's Atlas Mountains.



Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights

8pm

Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 13th round of matches, including Worcester Warriors v Bath.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
7.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights from the FA Cup third round fixtures contested so far, including Norwich City v Chelsea at Carrow Road, and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Swansea City at Molineux. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 The Big Questions. New series. Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues.
- 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** Developers Lucy Alexander and Martin Roberts explore properties about to be auctioned in London, Kent and Crewe, before meeting their new owners and catching up on their progress. (R)
- 12.00 Bargain Hunt.** At Newark Antiques and Collectors Fair in Nottinghamshire, two teams of married couples battle it out hoping to make the greater profit when their purchases are auctioned. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
1.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. The animated heroes go to the moon. (R)
- 1.40 MOTD Live: FA Cup.** Shrewsbury Town v West Ham United (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the third-round fixture at Montgomery Waters Meadow, as the League One side host the Premier League outfit.
- 4.00 Escape to the Country.** Finding a home in rural Lincolnshire with B&B potential. (R)
- 4.30 Songs of Praise.** A light festival for Epiphany Sunday.
- 5.05 Antiques Roadshow.** The team returns to Walmer Castle in Kent. (R)
- 6.05 BBC News.**
6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.30 Countryfile. The team explores the Ribble Valley. Matt Baker visits the Gisburn Forest. Anita Rani meets refugees who are farming in the snow, and Adam Henson learns about rare breed horses. Including weather for the week ahead.
- 7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville has a new idea for growing the business and branches out into offering fitness classes, while Mr Newbold undergoes an image overhaul to repel Mrs Featherstone.
- 8.00 Attenborough and the Sea Dragon.** The naturalist examines the 200 million-year-old remains of an ichthyosaur found on the Jurassic Coast. Computer graphics are used to create a simulation of the sea creature.
- 9.00 McMafia.** Alex receives an offer from someone claiming to be an old friend, and Semiyon seeks backing for his business venture - while Lyudmilla uncovers his investors' secrets.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Including highlights from today's FA Cup third-round fixtures, featuring Newport County v Leeds United, Shrewsbury Town v West Ham United, and Nottingham Forest v Arsenal.
- 11.30 The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
- 12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.10 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.20 Coast.** Nick Crane visits Nova Scotia in Canada to learn about early British settlers. (R)
- 7.20 The Instant Gardener.** Helen Skelton and garden designer Danny Clarke help a Barnsley couple. (R)
- 8.05 Gardeners' World.** The art of kokedama and the Cape primrose. (R)
- 8.35 Greatest Gardens.** (R)
- 9.05 Countryfile.** Adam Henson takes a trip to New Zealand. (R)
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well.** (R)
- 12.00 Food & Drink.** Party food, with guest Ching-He Huang. (R)
- 12.30 The A to Z of TV Cooking.** An alphabetical journey through dishes, featuring recipes linked by the letter P. (R)
- 12.40 Meet the Moose Family: Natural World.** The story of a mother moose bringing up her calf in the Canadian Rockies. (R)
- 1.40 Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore transforms lab stools and old fabric. (R)
- 2.10 Talking Pictures: Maggie Smith.** Profile of actress Maggie Smith. (R)
- 2.50 FILM: Ladies in Lavender (2004).** Period drama, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith.
- 4.30 Flog It!** The team value antiques at Birmingham's Museum and Art Gallery. (R)
- 5.15 Ski Sunday.** Including action from World Cup slalom event in Adelboden, Switzerland.
- 6.00 The Real T. Rex with Chris Packham.** Naturalist Chris Packham uses new insights into Tyrannosaurus rex behaviour and its appearance to create the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever produced. (R)
- 7.00 Robot Wars Special 2017: The World Series.** The second of two specials pitting champions from past series against rivals from other countries, featuring contenders from Russia, the USA, Canada and the Netherlands.
- 8.00 Dragons' Den.** A serial entrepreneur pitches his online greeting card business, and a Surrey-based inventor hopes his word game could become a family Christmas favourite. (R)
- 9.00 Michael Palin: A Life on Screen.** The actor and writer looks back on his career. Featuring classic clips from the archives and contributions from collaborators John Cleese, David Jason and Armando Iannucci.
- 10.00 FILM: And Now for Something Completely Different (1971).** Compilation of sketches from the first two series of Monty Python's Flying Circus. Starring John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle and Terry Gilliam.
- 11.25 FILM: Strictly Ballroom (1992).** A ballroom dancer, shunned for his unconventional style, tries to win a championship title with the aid of an awkward novice. Australian comedy, with Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice.
- 1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
- 1.55 Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 2.55 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Kocker Street 6.20 Bottom Kocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six**
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.55 Scrambled!: Ben 10.**
- 8.10 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** An unscrupulous mechanic targets Mr Bean. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Spy School.** Tips and tactics for spying.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishfart.** (R)
- 9.25 ITV News.**
- 9.30 River Monsters.** An ancient fishing community being terrorised in the Pacific Ring of Fire. (R)
- 9.55 The Voice UK.** Olly Murs joins the coaching panel in the first round of blind auditions. (R)
- 11.30 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 12.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.40 A Right Royal Quiz.** Fern Britton hosts a panel show about the royal family. (R)
- 1.40 The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale.** Stars from the soaps face off. (R)
- 2.45 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the game show. (R)
- 3.45 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 4.00 ITV News and Weather.**
- 4.10 FILM: Happy Feet Two (2011).** Animated musical comedy sequel, with the voice of Elijah Wood.
- 6.00 Dancing on Ice.** New series. Celebrities and professional figure skaters pair up as Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield reunite as hosts of the popular dance contest after a four-year break.
- 8.00 Vera.** New series. The detective investigates when the charred remains of a colleague are found in an abattoir furnace. Brenda Blethyn returns for an eighth series of mysteries.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.10 FILM: Captain Phillips (2013).** The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi.
- 12.35 Great Art.** Tim Marlow explores the work of the world's most celebrated artists, beginning with Canaletto, revealing how his paintings were influenced by his home city of Venice. (R)
- 1.30 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium.** Variety show from the West End theatre, featuring a different host each week. Stephen Mulhern welcomes Alfie Boe, Little Mix, Alan Davies and Bryan Adams to the stage. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Doug worries he might be losing touch with Carrie. (R)
- 6.40 The King of Queens.** Carrie tells Doug a secret about Marie. (R)
- 7.05 The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie celebrate their anniversary. (R)
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank is visited by a former protegee. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert and Ray clash on the golf course. (R)
- 8.25 Frasier.** Part one of two. Martin and Sherry consider breaking up. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** Part two of two. Sherry clings on to Martin. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Kevin Bishop, Aisling Bea and Steve Pemberton.
- 12.30 Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships.** Live coverage of the afternoon session on the second day of the tournament.
- 5.30 The Great Festive Bake Off.** Part two of two. Benjamina, Rob, Rav and Sandy return to the tent. (R)
- 6.45 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 The World's Wildest Weather.** Footage of unusual and dangerous weather from around the world, including avalanches and cyclones. Featuring scientific analysis and first-hand accounts of the events featured.
- 8.00 The Biggest Little Railway in the World.** New series. Dick Strawbridge leads a team of enthusiasts attempting to build the longest model railway in history, stretching 71 miles from Scotland's east coast to west coast.
- 9.00 SAS: Who Dares Wins.** New series. Ant Middleton presents a third series of the show in which people are put through SAS recruitment tests, which this time comes from Morocco's Atlas Mountains.
- 10.00 FILM: The Sweeney (2012).** An insubordinate detective and his loyal partner must crack a robbery case while under investigation from their superiors. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone and Ben Drew.
- 12.10 FILM: Moonrise Kingdom (2012).** The inhabitants of an island community are thrown into a panic as they search for two runaway children. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, with Bruce Willis and Edward Norton.
- 1.55 Grand Designs Australia.** Peter Maddison meets a couple from Melbourne who are looking to upsize from their small weekend home in Victoria to a property they can use permanently. (R)
- 2.50 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit two sets of house-hunters in Sussex and Reading, Berkshire, who had very specific search criteria. (R)
- 3.45 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** First of a two-part special looking back at 2017.
- 4.15 Coast vs Country.** Sara Damerji and Kerr Drummond help boarding school teachers Alex and Emma, who want to buy their first home together on the Isle of Wight and have a £450,000 budget. (R)
- 5.10 Four in a Bed.** The owners visit the Highland Guesthouse in Callander. (R)
- 5.35 Countdown.** Nick Hewer and Rachel Riley present the words-and-numbers game. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.40 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.05 Paw Patrol 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.05 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Digby Dragon 9.40 Peppa Pig**
- 9.45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Karai battles an old rival.
- 10.20 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring animals.
- 10.40 FILM: Groundhog Day (1993).** Comedy, starring Bill Murray.
- 12.40 FILM: Practical Magic (1998).** Fantasy, starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman.
- 2.40 Will & Grace.** The US sitcom returns after an 11-year break. (R)
- 3.10 Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show. (R)
- 4.15 FILM: The Love Punch (2013).** Crime comedy, starring Pierce Brosnan and Emma Thompson.
- 6.00 The Two Ronnies: In Their Own Words.** A celebration of the lives and careers of comedy duo Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett, featuring performances, chat show appearances and rare and long-forgotten archive material. (R)
- 8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 13th round of matches, including Worcester Warriors v Bath, Northampton Saints v Gloucester, and Wasps v Saracens.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of another day for the illustrious inhabitants as they cope with the day-to-day complications of life under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.
- 10.00 FILM: Hot Pursuit (2015).** Premiere. An uptight police officer has to protect a gangster's widow as they go on the run from hitmen and corrupt cops. Crime comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Sofia Vergara.
- 11.00 5 News Update.**
- 11.05 FILM: Hot Pursuit (2015).** Concluded.
- 11.50 One Night with My Ex.** Former couples decide if they should get back together, including Jay and Sandy, whose passionate relationship ended when she heard rumours he had been unfaithful. (R)
- 12.50 Lip Sync Battle UK: Jimmy Carr vs Alexander Armstrong.** Hosted by Melanie Brown and Professor Green. (R)
- 1.15 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
- 3.10 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** A patient seeks advice about losing weight. (R)
- 4.00 Now That's Funny!** Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor.** A couple with a cluttered house that needs redecorating. (R)
- 5.10 Wildlife SOS.** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R)
- 5.35 Nick's Quest.** (R)



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The simple life for Scott's new sound

Ivor Novello Award-winning singer Scott Matthews is planning a busy 2018 with the release of his new album, *The Great Untold*.

The singer/songwriter plans to release the record in April with a tour following in May. It will include a date at Birmingham's St Paul's Church on May 20.

The record is Scott's simplest to date. For the first time in his five-album career, there's no band, no lavish production – just Scott. It is a man, a guitar and a song. It sounds simple, doesn't it? And it is.

Scott's new record, *The Great Untold*, is a career-defining masterpiece. The sixth studio album by the Ivor Novello Award-winning singer-songwriter is the one that many have craved – it is a masterclass in honesty, instinct and reflection.

A largely acoustic recording, Scott's sublime new record features sparse production. Recorded at home and in acoustically-resonant rural churches, instrumentation has been jettisoned. His 10-song cycle is the sound of a man comfortable in his own skin, putting his neck on the line with a collection of otherworldly songs.

"I'm still working on it but it's coming together and the songs are there," he says. "The record will be out in spring. I've always wanted to record a sparse, stripped back record and finally the time felt right to do that."

The ghosts of Paul Simon, Tim Buckley, Nick Drake and John Martyn loom large on a collection that ranks alongside work by some of the world's great singer-songwriters. On his sixth record, Scott has created songs that are breathtaking in their beauty and audacious in their simplicity.

The absence of drums, bass, cello and flute on *The Great Untold*, however, should not infer that it lacks depth. Far from it. The richness in Scott's new work comes from subtle playing and mellifluous melodies. He has improved again. He has become a master of his craft – a man who can play like Bert Jansch, sing like an angel and write songs that Joni Mitchell might admire.

REFINED

In many ways, *The Great Untold* is the start of a new era for Scott. Since his debut album, *Passing Stranger*, in 2006, the Wolverhampton-born star of bluesy acoustic has refined his craft. Writing deft and sensitive songs during a trajectory that begin with the ethereal *Elusive*, *The Great Untold* marks a new beginning.

The first great arc of his career was completed with his *Home* duology; a stunning pair of records that reflected on his journey thus far. *The Great Untold* is the sound of a man moving on. Scott is recently married, soon-to-experience fatherhood and has new hopes and fears, new stories to tell. "After *Home Part 2* was finished, I was looking to move forward by marrying harmony with my experiences since the last record," he says.

"The plan to write an acoustic record has always been there. I take a while over the songs. But in recent years, I've been keen to release more records. So I'm setting myself deadlines and working more quickly. Robert Plant once told me I ought to do more – and I took his advice."

Scott has tested himself as a songwriter. The absence of a band means he is vulnerable and exposed. But, in many ways, it was ever thus. He started as

Scott has been fine-tuning his sixth studio album



soloist and is ready to fly alone. It opens new possibilities, a different type of challenge.

"It takes me out of my comfort zone and has made me test myself," he says. "I've pared it down to guitar and vocals. At the beginning, there was nobody else. It's time to surprise myself. It's time to go back to my own world. I've gone full circle."

"This is how it all began. I would write at home, in Wolverhampton, and I'm doing that again now."

Literally, *The Great Untold* is a work with poetic intent. "It's a collection of songs that lots of people will relate to. It's a real mood-shift of a record. The songs always start from a personal angle, but listeners will hear them in different ways. When I'm writing, I'm almost hearing voices from *The Masters* and thinking: 'Would they approve?'" The point is to make a connection. "I want to move somebody with the power of moods and music. It's very powerful stuff."

It is in the right hands. And that's an apposite description for *The Great Untold*. It is a record written by a man at the peak of his powers, by a musician able to channel great

It's a collection of songs that lots of people will relate to

beauty in songs that reveal the most human of truths.

Scott remains proud of his Black Country heritage and *The Great Untold* is a record rooted in the region. He has a home studio in his back garden – he calls it the *Shedio* – and that's where he disappears with his thoughts.

"Things have changed a lot. Back in the day there was the big record label, the management deal and all sorts of people around us."

"These days it's just my wife and I – we make the decisions, I write the songs, we take it on the road. I kind of like doing things that way. It gives us more artistic control."

"It's been a steep learning curve but there's a lot to be said for keeping things simple."

Keeping things simple is precisely what *The Great Untold* does. And with his demos for the record now complete, it's shaping up to be the greatest record of his career.

Andy Richardson

● Scott Matthews is running a Pledge campaign for people who want to pre-order copies of the record and further details are available at www.scottmatthews.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Shropshire Star every Friday.



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So many stand-out features in Audi

By Graham Breeze

These days you expect something exceptional from Audi and you certainly won't be disappointed by the A4 Avant 3.0 TDI Quattro.

Every time I drive an Audi I find myself asking what more the company could possibly do to improve the range and each time I hand the car back blown away by stunning levels of quality and improved technology.

The Avant comes with all the same home comforts we have come to expect from Audi but there are so many stand-out features which make you appreciate what a truly exceptional option this is.

Highlights include xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights, the Audi smartphone interface, rear parking sensors and electrically powered tailgate operation, plus protective equipment such as the Audi pre-sense collision avoidance system and multi-collision brake assist.

And then there's the Audi Virtual Cockpit with its pin-sharp fully digital display, MMI Navigation plus with MMI Touch, a head-up display and Matrix LED headlights.

The Audi A4 Avant quattro can also be ordered with one of the latest developments in driver assistance: adaptive cruise control with traffic jam assist. At speeds of up to 37 mph, the vehicle will accelerate, brake and steer independently, relieving stress on the driver in slow-moving traffic.

As part of the driver assistance pack customers can also take advantage of the predictive efficiency assistant, which helps drivers to reduce fuel consumption by up to



There's a top quality feeling in the cabin

10 per cent by using navigation route data to adapt the cruise control system's pre-selected speed to the route and the speed limits for the most fuel efficient and comfortable journey.

Engine sophistication is backed up by an advanced five-link front and rear suspension system meaning you can gobble up both motorway and country road situations effortlessly – it really is a driving joy.

Depending on preference, customers can increase the comfort by adding electronically modulated Adaptive Comfort Suspension with damping control, or choose Adaptive Sport Suspension with damping control for enhanced refinement with a greater emphasis on cornering composure.

It's impossible to tell how comfortable the driver would feel at the top speed of 152mph but you do feel secure enough when charging



Highlights include xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights

from 0-62mph in 8.4 seconds and recording combined fuel figures of just under 60mpg. You'll also be impressed by the CO2 emission figures of 129g/km.

There are few better places to be than in the driver's seat of this latest Audi A4 offering. There's a top quality feel about everything inside the cabin and the virtual cockpit is as near as it gets to being at the controls of a fighter jet.

Seat adjustments mean you can easily find the most comfortable position and there's ample space for three rear seat passengers along with a huge boot, which easily copes with the golf clubs.

There's a price to pay for all this of course and the model on test had an on-the-road tag of £38,895 though this shot up to £49,000 when adding sports seats, parking assist, 19inch alloys, comfort, sound, vision

and technology packs, adaptive sports suspension, heated front seats and folding door mirrors.

It's a shame that Audi feels that heated seats and folding door mirrors should be classed as extras on a model of this quality and I've often questioned the reasons for adding cost of a tank of fuel to the selling price.

Putting that to one side the A4 Avant 3.0TDi Quattro is yet another gem from Audi.

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Spacious, comfortable and relaxed

By John Griffiths

Volvo is on a roll following a massive investment in new technology and new models from its popular V40 compact estate through two (soon to be three) widely acclaimed SUVs and now a new range-topping family of saloon and estate cars.

These include the S90: a car that wafts you from place to place in limousine-like luxury with a blend of sports saloon performance and surprising economy.

It is the Swedish car maker's biggest ever threat to the dominance of the German brands (and JLR) in the executive express market with core values of space, pace and elegance.

One of the most likable things about Volvo (apart from its emphasis on safety) is that the Swedes like to do their own thing. That's how they come up with such things as their Sensus technology, a large touch screen controller for audio, climate, connectivity and a range of other functions which works in the most logical and intuitive way possible.

The test car was the S90 saloon (the V90s are big estates) with a remarkably efficient two-litre diesel engine.

It is a big car, but none the less the engine mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission which will take you from a standstill to 62mph in just seven seconds.

Yet, even with a four wheel drive system, it is capable of averaging almost 59mpg (official figures). In real world driving I was happy with a 37mpg return for a big car of this potential.

It's CO2 rating is 127g/km, which would seem quite reasonable on a much smaller car.

The S90 range starts at £33,865 although the test car, as a near top specification D5 in R-Design trim, was £9,000 more: and that

was before the option extras which took the bottom line to £54,355.

That's still highly competitive in its class, and some of those options were particularly welcome in what was, to date, the coldest week of the year. A very rapid front windscreen de-icer, heated washer nozzles, steering wheel and rear (as well as front) seats were warmly appreciated.

I didn't try the tilt/slide glass sunroof, which came as part of a £1,500 option pack with the park assist and useful 360 degree parking camera system. The latter is very useful in all weathers, bearing in mind the size of the cars and parking spaces apparently laid out in the days when everyone drove classic Minis.

The S90 looks the part: in fact it's for me the best-looking saloon ever to come from Volvo and certainly wouldn't look out of place in any executive car park. The interior tells the same story: superbly shaped and supportive sports-style leather seats, a mix of bright metal and carbon fibre effect trim (R-Design is the sporting spec) and head and legroom in the rear to match a limousine. Add to that the rapid, yet unflustered and smooth performance and you have a class winner.

The test car was fitted with adaptive damping (manually adjustable with other 'mode' functions such as eco or dynamic from the driving seat) with electronic air suspension at the rear. It soaks up the bumps with aplomb.

The standard S90's engine delivers 190Ps (186bhp) of power but D5 variants have their output boosted to 235Ps – yes, from a 2.0 litre diesel. The test car also had 'PowerPulse' – essentially a reservoir of compressed air to spin up the turbo, adding instant torque when accelerating from low revs.

The power steering is light while parking



The Volvo S90 wafts you from place to place in limousine-like luxury with a blend of sports saloon performance and economy

but weight increases to help provide better straightline stability and driver feedback through the corners. Four big disc brakes provide plenty of stopping power.

The Sensus media system controls a full range of connectivity services (the car can even book its own services) as well as navigation and two-zone climate control, heated seats and steering wheel among using a large (nine inch) and easy to use touch screen. Even I quickly found my way around it without pouring over the instruction manual.

You can also set up your chosen displays in the driver information centre between the main dials, including navigation prompts.

Taking the the S90's strong and crash-

resistant construction, plus a multitude of airbags, for granted, the car is kitted out with a plethora of safety systems. On this version that starts with the all-wheel drive system plus ABS and electronic stability systems.

The City Safety System, for example, which can detect other vehicles, pedestrians cyclists and even large animals – even at junctions – is a world first which first gives a warning and if necessary operates the brakes automatically to avoid a collision.

It also has pilot assist combined with adaptive cruise control which takes care of the accelerator, steering and brakes to keep the car within lane markings, at a set speed and distance from traffic in front.

Volvo's 'run-off road protection' tightens the seatbelts and, if necessary, collapses part of the seat frame to reduce spinal injuries if you accidentally run off the road. It's another first for the company which has pioneered many of the safety features we now take for granted.

The sleek and elegant S90 is one example of the rapid progress Volvo has made in the few short years since it was released from Ford's corporate shackles, its own designers and engineers free to do what they do best.

Spacious, comfortable and a relaxed performer, this flagship saloon is a highly competitive alternative go rival models which have previously claimed this elevated sector of the market as their own.

Five-star NCAP safety for new Kia Stinger and Stonic

The new Kia Stinger gran turismo and Kia Stonic compact crossover have been awarded the highest-possible collision safety ratings by Euro NCAP. Both vehicles achieved the full five-star rating from Euro NCAP, with every Stinger model qualifying for the rating, and all Stonic models fitted with Kia's Advanced Driver Assistance Pack.

The independent safety testing organisation awarded the Stinger 93 per cent for adult occupant protection, 81 per cent for child occupant protection, 78 per cent for pedestrian protection, and 82 per cent in the 'Safety Assist' category.

The Stonic was awarded 93 per cent for adult protection, 84 per cent for child occupant protection, 71 per cent for pedestrian protection, and 59 per cent in the 'Safety Assist' category.

The scores are underpinned by the vehicles' Advanced High Strength Steel bodyshells, paired with standard-fit airbags (six in the Stonic and seven in the Stinger) and a wide array of passive and high-tech active safety features.

Euro NCAP praised both cars for their passenger compartments remaining stable in a collision, with high levels of protection for passengers in every seat. For the Stinger in particular, passengers were well protected from whiplash, while the effects of pedestrian impact were reduced by an active deployable bonnet. Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) helped both the Stinger and Stonic to avoid all impacts during testing for the 'Safety Assist' category.

The Stinger is available with Kia's



Kia's Stinger has the marque's latest advanced driver assistance systems

latest advanced driver assistance systems, while every car is equipped as standard with Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC). Other standard safety features available include: Autonomous Emergency Braking; Lane Keep Assist System; Speed Limit Information Function; Hill-start Assist Control; Active Bonnet System; Emergency Stop Signalling and High Beam Assist. The 'GT-Line S' and 'GT S' variants are additionally equipped with Blind Spot Detection with Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

The Stinger is also fitted as standard with an innovative Driver Attention Warning (DAW) system to combat distracted or drowsy driving.

The system monitors several inputs from the vehicle and the driver, and sounds a warning chime and displays a graphic in the instrument binnacle if it senses a lapse in concentration from the driver.

Advanced Driver Assistance technologies available in the Stonic include: Autonomous Emergency Braking with pedestrian recognition; Lane Departure Warning System with Driver Attention Warning & High Beam Assist. Lane Keeping Assist System will also be available to Stonic buyers from the middle of 2018.

The Stonic is equipped as standard with Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC).

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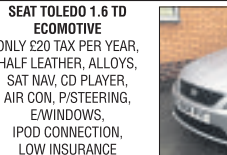
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Llan lifted by high five victory on their travels

FIVE-STAR Llanrhaeadr pulled off a terrific 5-1 victory at Llanfair United to underline their title credentials in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Victory kept fourth placed Llan hard on the heels of the leading pack as they enter the second half of the season in confident mood.

Kyham Wyton have the visitors a 25th minute lead, and Iwan Matthews doubled the advantage right on half time with an excellent 25-yard free kick.

Llanfair had a good spell after the break, but were denied by some fine saves by keeper Connor Lee, and there was no way back once Wyton notched his second goal of the game.

Tom Evans lobbed No4 and Matthews bagged his second of the game before Andrew Hughes grabbed a late consolation.

Pacesetters Welshpool Town stayed clear with a 2-0 verdict at Berriew thanks to goals from Will Thomas and Adam Davies.

Carno kept up the pressure in second place with a 6-0 drubbing of Tywyn Brynecrug, Peter Rees and Luke Evans both netting twice along with Jac Petrie and Scott Williams.

Llanidloes Town are going well in third, showing their mettle with a 5-0 beating of 10-man Llandrindod Wells at Victoria Avenue.

After Llandod had a player sent off for violent conduct early on, the Daffs were always in the ascendancy before taking charge with four second half goals.

Knighton Town edged out sixth placed Radnor Valley 2-1, while Bow Street were held 1-1 at Aberaeron in the day's other action.

High flying Builth Wells marched on at the top of the second division after brushing aside Newbridge 4-1 to put them 11 points clear.

Meanwhile, Huw France fired a hat-trick, including a penalty, as Llanrhaeadr reserves swept aside Brecon Northcote 7-1 in the Emrys Morgan Cup.

Town return – but suffer two defeats

AFTER returning to pitch following a couple of postponements, FC Oswestry Town made a disappointing start to the festive season when suffering a 3-0 reverse away to Abbey Hulton United.

The visitors were always chasing the game after failing behind to Joshua Buxton's third minute strike, before a late brace from Dylan Bath on 82 and 86 minutes put paid to any chances of a fight-back.

A few days later, Town were back on home surrounds on Boxing Day, only to be edged out 1-0 by promotion chasing Whitchurch Alport who struck in the last minute to take the spoils through Benjamin Mills.

Bluebirds are through in cup

RELIEVED Caersws became the first side to reach the fourth round of the Central Wales Cup after producing a second half fightback to overcome Aberaeron 4-3 at the Recreation Ground.

The Cymru Alliance Bluebirds had trailed 2-0 at half time, before hitting back to lead 3-2 with a brace from Steve Blinkinsop and one from Luke Sherbon.

Their Spar Mid Wales League visitors refused to surrender, and levelled the third round tie, but Caersws were not to be denied as Rhydian Davies pounced for an injury time winner.

TNS hit back to land Boxing Day blow

A SECOND-HALF comeback helped The New Saints stretch their lead in the Welsh Premier League as they came from two behind to claim victory.

Newtown raced into a 2-0 lead but the Saints showed why they are champions, scoring three goals in the second period to claim another three points.

The Saints were looking to take advantage of Bangor City's weekend slip, and laid siege to the Robins box early on during the Boxing Day clash.

A few scrambles were cleared by some dogged Newtown defending, with Chris Hughes hoping his troops could hit the visitors on the break.

And that was the case on 25 minutes when Jamie Reed scored from the penalty spot after Kieran Mills-Evans had been upended.

Three minutes later the strugglers were in dream-land as they found themselves two goals to the good.

Luke Boundford picked the pocket of Chris Marriot, and found Nick Rushton, and the winger slipped in Reed who swept a ball across the keeper and into the corner.

Saints' pressure was relentless but the Robins held out until the 68th minute when the referee was in the thick of the action again.

Substitute Robbie Parry slipped in Marriot who went down under the challenge of Luke Boundford, and a spot-kick was given with no complaints from the Robins. Greg Draper stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way.

Boundford was guilty of spurning an opportunity

to kill the game 20 minutes from time and Newtown were punished for it. Blaine Hudson lashed an equaliser home from 35 yards, and seconds later the comeback was complete when Ryan Brobbel curled a shot beyond Dave Jones.

Newtown pressed late on but young keeper Aaron Jones denied Tom Goodwin at the death.

■ Greg Draper's hat-trick propelled The New Saints to a 4-0 victory over Aberystwyth Town as the JD Welsh Premier leaders kicked off the festive season in style.

"Greg was touch and go whether he played after picking up a kick in training, but he came through and he again showed he will score plenty of goals when you give him a chance," said boss Scott Ruscoe.

Saints stunned as Newtown hit back

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints ended the year with a shock 4-2 defeat at the hands of a spirited Newtown after relinquishing a two-goal lead on a dramatic afternoon at Park Hall.

Having won 3-2 at Latham Park when the sides met on Boxing Day, the Saints looked well on course to complete a double in the JD Welsh Premier after taking charge of the return with two strikes in the opening 16 minutes of the game.

Top scorer Greg Draper got the first for the league leaders, making the most of having his red-card in the previous game rescinded, before Jamie Mullan smashed home a second.

But Newtown – who themselves had squandered a two-goal lead in the previous meeting with TNS – rallied as Ryan Sears and Luke Boundford levelled matters.

Saints midfielder Robbie Parry was then dismissed right on half-time for dissent to add to the home side's problems.

The Robins then made the most of their one-man advantage in the second period with Boundford heading his second of the game on 73 minutes before Nick Rushton settled the issue three minutes from time.

Uphill task

Despite suffering their second home defeat of the season, the Oswestry-based Saints remain six points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier – and will look to make a swift riposte in tomorrow's game in hand at Bala Town.

Boss Scott Ruscoe, who had Paul Harrison back in goal following illness, admitted the defending champions lost their way after a bright start.

"We passed the ball well for the first 20 minutes, went two up, but then stopped doing the things we're good at," he said.

"Our decision making in possession and defence was quite poor, we lost our focus, which is not us, and it became one of those days.

"With 10 men it was always going to be an uphill task, but I still felt it was a game we could win, like we did on Boxing Day."

There was no hiding the delight of Newtown boss Chris Hughes, who praised his side's work ethic and application after turning the tables on



TNS striker Greg Draper, above, goes on the charge against Newtown. ■ Picture: TNS.

the reigning champions.

"Delighted? That is an understatement, and I am made up, especially after going 2-0 down. How many teams can come back from that here?" he said.

"People will say TNS had an off day but you can take nothing away from my players, they were superb. The togetherness and work ethic never went away.

"We showed that, we made the right decisions and got our rewards. We got the balance right, and took

our chances when they came.

"We got into good areas and put good balls in the box and took our chances, and we could have scored seven or eight. Not many sides can come here and say that."

The victory will give Newtown a welcome shot in the arm after enduring a testing first half of the season, but prospects did not look rosy early on as the Saints were soon in their stride.

GUILDSFIELD frustrated with a draw at strugglers

GUILDSFIELD missed a chance of turning up the heat on the leading contenders in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after being held 1-1 at struggling Penrhyncoch.

Liam Doherty gave the Roosters the perfect start with a fourth minute opener, before Andy Ford put the Guils level midway through the half.

The draw has lifted the villagers up fourth in the table, seven points adrift of leaders Caernarfon Town, but they would reflect on two points dropped after bossing much of the encounter at Cae Baker.

A defensive slip allowed Penrhyn to take an early lead with Doherty firing the rebound past keeper Andy Wycherley after his first effort had been turned onto the bar.

After that, the Guils dominated against a side who, despite missing several of their regulars, battled hard throughout.

They were back on terms on 24 minutes as a neat build-up involving Callum Bromley and Asa Hamilton ended with Ford firing home.

The visitors had further opportunities, but struggled to find a way through a steely home rear-guard as the honours were shared.

A few days before, Guilsfield stayed in touching distance of the Cymru Alliance leaders beating Caersws 4-3 at Clos Mytton.

Remarkably, all seven goals came in the first half, with Jake Cook giving the Guils a 10th minute lead when cutting in from the left before his deflected shot looped into the net.

Caersws carved several good openings, with Lance Jones driving a shot across goal, Sherbon's header being cleared off the line and an Elliot Jones free kick hitting the post. But Sherbon stuck twice on 22 and 34 minutes to put the visitors in front, his first after good work down the right from Jake Parr and then capitalising following a mis-hit clearance by keeper Andy Wycherley.

Asa Hamilton quickly levelled when nodding in a Louis Irvine cross from the left, only for Sherbon to restore the Caersws advantage when completing his hat-trick three minutes before the interval.

But there was still time for Guilsfield to hit back with headed efforts from Andy Ford and Robbie James putting the home side in front right on half-time.

Saints sign off the year with victory

ST MARTINS ended the year with a winning flourish as they maintained their resurgence in the West Midlands League division one with a 3-1 victory at Allscott.

After putting paid to Gornal Athletic, the Saints signed off 2018 with a victory over Allscott courtesy of a brace from Callum Graybrook and one from Brendon Price.

A year ago, they were threatened with relegation, but the revival now sees the team in a respectable ninth spot and just five points off a top four placing.

The Saints had enough chances to have emerged more emphatic winners against Allscott after forging a two goal interval lead.

Graybrook opened the scoring when converting a penalty. Price then doubled the advantage before Graybrook notched his second after the break.

Ex-Saints Martins player Jorge Gomes headed one back, but the visitors were well worth the spoils as they look to keep up the good work at home to Newport Town on Saturday.

■ After a blank spell due to the weather, St Martins had returned to duty with a 4-3 victory over Gornal Athletic to boost their prospects in the West Midlands League division one

Welshpool held as keeper saves day

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

toll.

Iain Edmunds notched the first on two minutes when slotting in after being released by Kyham Wyton's through pass.

Tom Bailey then doubled the advantage on 10 minutes courtesy of Dale Evans' cross from the left, before Iwan Matthews tucked home an angled strike after more good work from Wyton.

Berriew battled hard, and gained a consolation in the last minute when Steff Rogers headed in a corner.

Victory took Llanrhaeadr two points above Carno who were left sidelined after their trip to Llanfair United was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at the Mount Field.

Llanidloes Town also lost ground on the pacesetters after slipping to a 3-2 reverse at Radnor Valley - in a game that saw them finish with nine men.

Bow Street consolidated sixth spot with a hard-fought 2-1 success over lowly Borth United, and Knighton Town are one place behind after their 2-0 verdict at Llandrindod Wells.

Kerry, looking for points to get them back up the table, saw their trip to Tywyn Brynecrug fall victim to the wet weather.

In division two, Nathan Prodger scored twice as Llansantffraid Village stayed firmly on the promotion trail with a 3-2 victory over Newbridge at Treflan, Bryn Jones also finding the net.

At the other end of the table, Dyffryn Banw remain in danger after their 2-1 home loss to Dolgel-lau, but Montgomery boosted their cause with a 3-2 success against Abermule.



Harry Jukes races towards the Welshpool line after receiving a pass from No8 Chris Morris



Harry Jukes crosses under the posts to complete his hat-trick. Pictures: ■ Trevor Jones .

Harry's game with a hat-trick for COBRA

CENTRE Harry Jukes bagged a hat-trick of tries as COBRA maintained their promotion push in the Welsh League division two (north) with a 46-0 success at lowly neighbours Welshpool.

With the race effectively for runners-up spot behind runaway leaders Denbigh, the Meifod men ensured a bonus point with a total of eight tries and three conversions.

The victory kept them fourth, four points adrift of second placed Wrexham with two games in hand, and they will be chasing another win on Saturday with a home encounter against lowly Llangollen.

By contrast, defeat left Welshpool in the bottom two and deeper in the relegation mire. They are now six points shy of fellow strugglers Llangollen, and face a tough trip to Llanidloes on Saturday.

Having defeated another Powys side Llanidloes 17-7 in their last league action, COBRA had their sights on a Welshpool side that has found the going tough in the second division this season.

The visitors more than matched the Llanfair side for the first half hour, but a late burst of tries saw COBRA 22-0 up at half time.

With the wind at their backs, wing Matthew Jones crossed for the first score, after a break from Richie Roberts down the right.

Three further touchdowns before the interval then put the home side in charge, captain and prop Hywel Jones driving over for his first try of

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

the season following a quick tap penalty.

Jukes then appeared off the bench as an injury replacement, and the centre made an immediate impact as he broke through to score the first of his three tries with his first touch.

He then carved a fourth try right on on half time with an incisive break before feeding full-back Richard Jones to cross, with Richie Roberts supplying the conversion for a 22-0 advantage at the interval.

With the elements in their favour after the break, Pool were camped in the home half for the first 15 minutes, but were unable to make the most of their possession and territory.

And they were stung by a terrific breakaway try when COBRA won the ball on their own five yard line, before a couple of breaks released Jukes to race three quarters of the pitch to cross the line.

Wing Iolo White then got in on the act after a break down the left, and Jukes completed his hat-trick following a spell of pressure.

White then notched his second try of the game after coming off the left wing to score, while Richie Roberts added a couple of conversions to complete the 46-0 scoreline.

COBRA have a busy spell of games as they host Builth Wells II in the Mid Wales Cup on Tuesday night, before entertaining Llangollen on Saturday.

The following week they welcome Pembroke in the last 16 of the Swalec Bowl.



Charging prop Nico Williams is held up by the Pool defence



Skipper Hywel Jones celebrates his first try of the season in COBRA's 46-0 win



COBRA centre Harry Jukes eludes a Welshpool tackle



COBRA wing Iolo White is tackled with fullback Richard Jones on the outside

Sport

Football
Round-ups from the
festive games – P35

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Town look to push on up the table

FC OSWESTRY Town embark on a big month as they look to maintain their rise in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

Having consolidated 12th position with the 2-0 win over New Mills at Park Hall, Town will now be looking to maintain the momentum in the New Year.

First up on Saturday is a trip to Oldham side Chadderton, whose form has dipped of late with three straight defeats, including a 6-0 drubbing against Silsden.

"We've now got five games coming up against teams around and below us in the league, and if we can pick up 12-15 points it will put us right in the mix," said joint boss Ryan Butcher.

"It's going to be a big challenge to get into the play-offs, but it's not an unrealistic aim as a lot of the teams above us have to play each other."

Town make the trip to Chadderton in good heart after shrugging off their last gasp defeat to Whitchurch Alport on Boxing Day with a 2-0 home win over New Mills.

"We played well against Whitchurch, matched them in all areas, so it was disappointing to lose right at the end," added Butcher.

"We've now got Chadderton on Saturday. They have had a bit of dip in form, but we won't be treating them lightly."

Oswestry dominated the first half against Derbyshire outfit New Mills, Jack Harris getting the opener on 15 minutes while other chances went to waste.

The visitors then had a defender sent off early in the second period for bringing down Gary Meredith who was through on goal, but Town toiled against the 10 men before Dan Tinsley sealed the points five minutes from time.

FC Oswestry Town's home tie with Ellesmere Rangers in the quarter-finals of the TJ Vickers Shropshire Challenge Cup at Park Hall, which was postponed last month due to the weather, has been rearranged for Tuesday, January 16, with an 8pm kick off.

Saints handed cup clash with Allscott

ST MARTINS have been drawn against Allscott in the semi-final of the Commander Ethelston Cup.

The Saints can go into the tie in good heart after defeating their cup opponents 3-1 in their last action of the year in the West Midlands League division one just last Saturday.

They reached the last four of the cup with a 10-2 drubbing of Penley at Park Hall, having been level at 2-2 at one stage before the goals flowed.

In the other tie, in-form Whitchurch Alport have been paired with Malpas. Dates to be confirmed.

Meanwhile, St Martins will look to maintain their West Midlands League division one revival when they entertain Newport Town on Saturday at Park Hall

Oswestry sign Indian A opening bowler

OPENING bowler Rituraj Singh will join Oswestry's ranks next season as the Morda Road side look to make their mark in the Birmingham Cricket League division one.

The 27-year-old Indian will have big shoes to fill after the club were unable to secure the return of Pakistani paceman Sadaf Hussain who played a key part in the promotion winning season in the second division.

Oswestry are confident that Singh, a former Indian A medium-quick bowler, will impress as their overseas player when he joins the club for the start of the season in April.

He made his debut for Rajasthan in 2011/12

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

season and featured for India A in 2013. He then switched to Jharkhand before playing for Goa last season.

He has chalked up 44 first-class matches, taking 147 wickets at an average of 28.57 and has a best of 7-42.

"We looked again at getting Sadaf back, but it didn't work out," said Oswestry chairman Chris Wiseman.

"We wanted to get our overseas player sorted out as soon as possible, and we are pleased Rituraj

has agreed to join us. He has come recommended to us by the same agent who brought us Sadaf, and his stats look very good.

"He's played for India A as a bowler but he can bat a bit as well, so hopefully he can contribute a bit more to the team.

"We're thinking he can definitely replace Sadaf as we have done our research on him."

Oswestry, meanwhile, are waiting to see whether young Glamorgan all rounder Roman Walker will feature with the club next term.

The highly-rated 17-year-old has been selected for the England under-19s in the World Cup in New Zealand this month.

SAINTS MOVE CLEAR AT TOP

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

HAVING got their title pursuit back on track in the JD Welsh Premier, The New Saints will look to surge further ahead of the pack in Friday night's trip to struggling Prestatyn (7.45).

The Saints are now nine points clear at the top after their rainswept 3-0 midweek win at Bala Town - which was the perfect riposte after suffering a 4-2 home loss to Newtown a few days before.

Next up for the league leaders is a visit to Prestatyn who have lost their last six league outings to slip into the relegation places.

Having also thrashed the Seaside 6-1 at Park Hall earlier in the season, the Saints will be in confident mood as they look to extend their lead in the penultimate game before the league split.

But they will be wary of a Prestatyn side who, fighting for league survival, could prove a handful in the heavy conditions at their Bastion Gardens ground.

"It's a tough place to go, and we hope the weather picks up a bit as their pitch is not great," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"They almost got a draw at Bala last week, and will be well organised, so we'll have to dig in and mix it up a bit. Every game's a different challenge.

"If someone had said we would be nine points clear after 20 games, I would have snapped their hand off, but we now need to push on."

TNS will head to the north Wales coast in good heart after Tuesday night's 3-0 victory over in-form Bala Town courtesy of second half strikes from Chris Marriott, Ryan Brobbel and sub Wes Fletcher.

Torrential rain and wind made the going tough, particularly in the first half, and Ruscoe was delighted with his side's display.



TNS substitute Wes Fletcher wrapped up the points with the third goal at Bala Town in midweek

"They were horrendous conditions, some of the worst I've known, but we dominated from start to finish," he said.

The Saints were ahead 10 minutes into the second period courtesy of a deflected strike by Marriott from a Brobbel assist.

Brobbel then added a second a minute later when driving a low free kick into the bottom cor-

ner to put the Saints in charge.

Bala, who were chasing their fifth straight win, rarely suggested they could find a way back, and their fate was sealed when sub Fletcher tapped in a third in injury time.

It's a big day for TNS LADIES who head to Newcastle United Ladies in the third round proper of the FA Women's FA Cup on Sunday.

Tributes are paid to 'true gent' Stokes

THE funeral of another stalwart of Shropshire crown green bowls stalwart takes place this Thursday, January 4.

Eric Stokes, a past chairman of both the Oswestry and Whitchurch leagues, died aged 82 on December 21 after a short illness.

His funeral service takes place at 11am at St Martins Methodist Church, followed by cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium in Wrexham at 12 noon.

His long-time friend and fellow member at Ifton BC, Terry Williams, said: "It was so very sad to hear of the passing of a very dear friend over many years."

"Eric suffered poor health over the last couple of years but never complained, fought bravely and attended bowls matches and played when able to."

"He has done so much over many years - a very accomplished bowler but always a true gentleman and sportsman on and off the green."

Stokes was also a respected bowls administrator, holding countless offices including Ifton club chairman and treasurer and county delegate.

Eagles are back after festive break

AFTER their festive break, Oswestry's rugby players return to action in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two with a home encounter against Didsbury and Toch H on Saturday (2.15).

Lying sixth in the table, they will hope for improved fortunes at Granville Park in the second half of the campaign as they bid to cement their place in the upper reaches of the table.

The Eagles will face a tricky first outing of 2018 against their visitors from Manchester who arrive just one point and one place below their hosts.

Across the border, COBRA embark on a busy spell of games as they host Builth Wells II in the Mid Wales Cup on Tuesday night, before entertaining Llanngollen in the Welsh League division two (north) on Saturday.

The following week, the Meifod men welcome Pembroke in the last 16 of the Swalec Bowl.

Meanwhile, Welshpool - beaten 46-0 by COBRA last weekend - visit Llanidloes on Saturday as they bid to revive their fortunes in the second division.

Llanrhaeadr look for some Cup joy

THE Central Wales Cup takes centre stage on Saturday with several clubs in the region looking to progress past the third round stage. In-form Llanrhaeadr will want to maintain their fine run of form when they head for a potentially tricky clash at Spar Mid Wales League division one rivals Radnor Valley.

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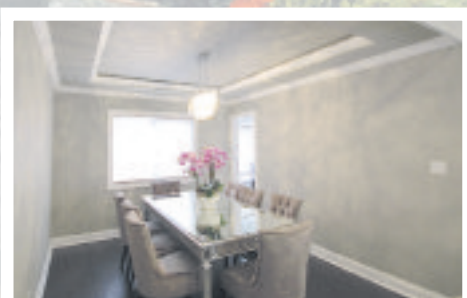
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DREAM HOME'S the perfect place to enjoy your retirement



Maguires Developments is a family run business with many years of experience. For generations the Maguire family have developed park home estates and static caravan parks before that, going back to touring caravan parks before. Needless to say this progression has given the maguire family all the necessary knowledge to create and manage high quality park home estates, this knowledge has been passed down through the generations and will continue to be passed on as the next generation come along.

We strive to develop park home estates to the highest standard possible and to make sure that we can achieve this, we operate our own construction company and do not sub contract any of our development work out, this allows us to keep a close eye on every stage of the development, making sure that the quality is exceptional below the surface as well as the finishing touches you can see on the surface.



Part exchange
scheme available



LUXURIOUS COMFORT

All of our homes are highly spec'd and laid out in such a way to be very practical as well as comfortable.



TRANQUIL SURROUNDINGS

We carefully select our locations to be in beautiful settings as well as near to local amenities, we aim to keep a peaceful, community setting.

Each of our homes are built to a very high standard as are our park home estates.

Designed with low maintenance, safe community living in mind.

We have 4 show homes available for viewing and ready for immediate occupation



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US?

“ We moved to Clanna in 2008. We love the park and the lifestyle and would recommend Maguire's Developments to anyone. ”

Mr and Mrs Williams

MAGUIRES
DEVELOPMENTS



FULLY FURNISHED

All new homes are supplied with all loose furniture included, ready to move in, if you don't require any of the furniture it can be removed from the price.



10 YEAR WARRANTY

All new park homes we supply are covered by a 10 year gold shield warranty, which is a very comprehensive cover on all of the structure.



Beautiful brand new and modern park homes for over 50's

Contact Us Today

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or to arrange a viewing, we are available on the phone from 7:30am to 7:30pm. We always aim to answer emails the same day they are sent and the form on the right can be used to contact us or to request a call back, we do not keep your information and do not make sales calls or send junk mail.



Viewings can be arranged by calling: **01938 580768** or **07773336633**

Web: **www.m-d.co.uk** Email: **info@m-d.co.uk**

People are welcome to turn up to look around without appointments

Address: **Tavern Park, Forden, Near Welshpool SY21 8NN**